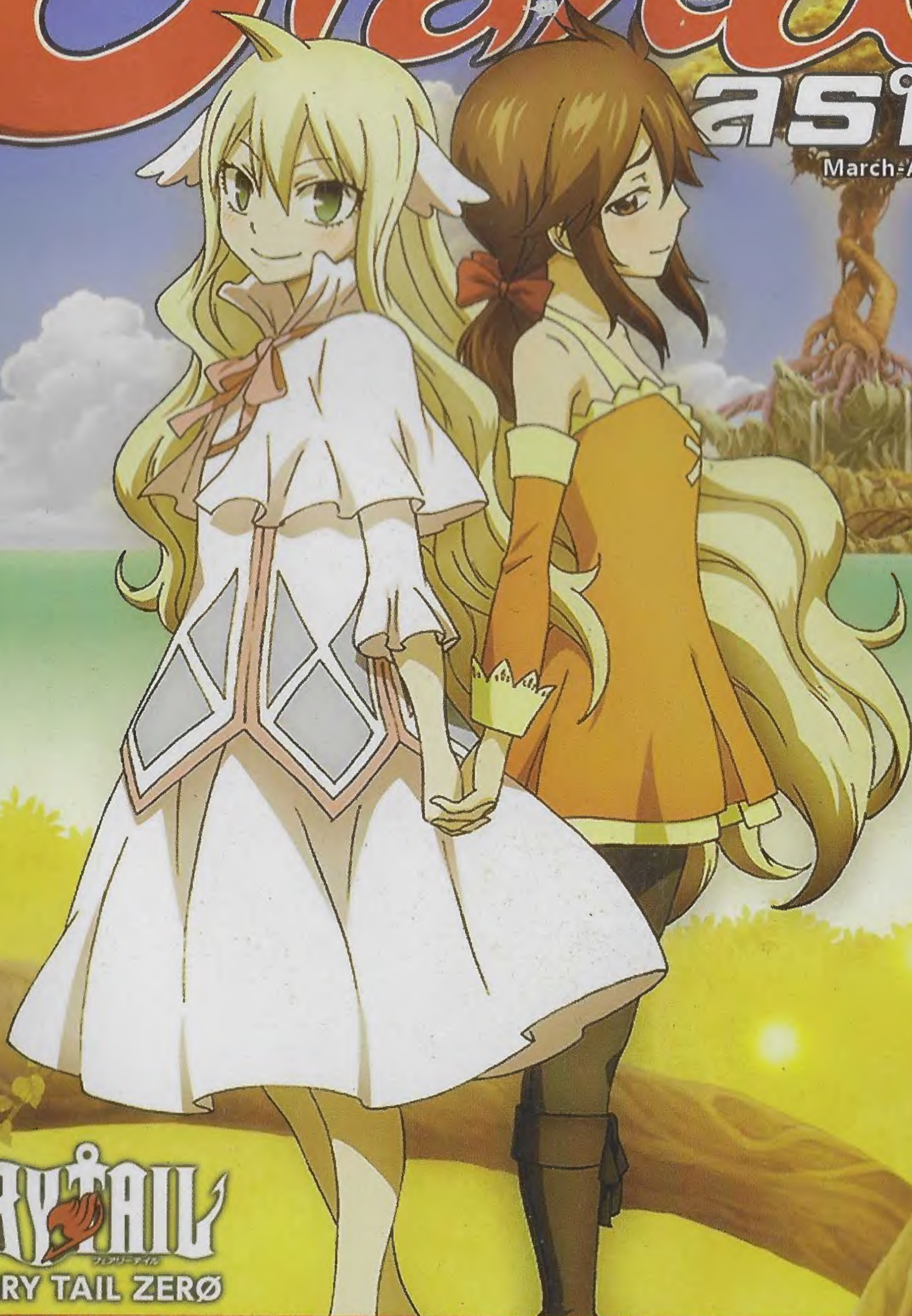


Otakaku asia

March-April 2016
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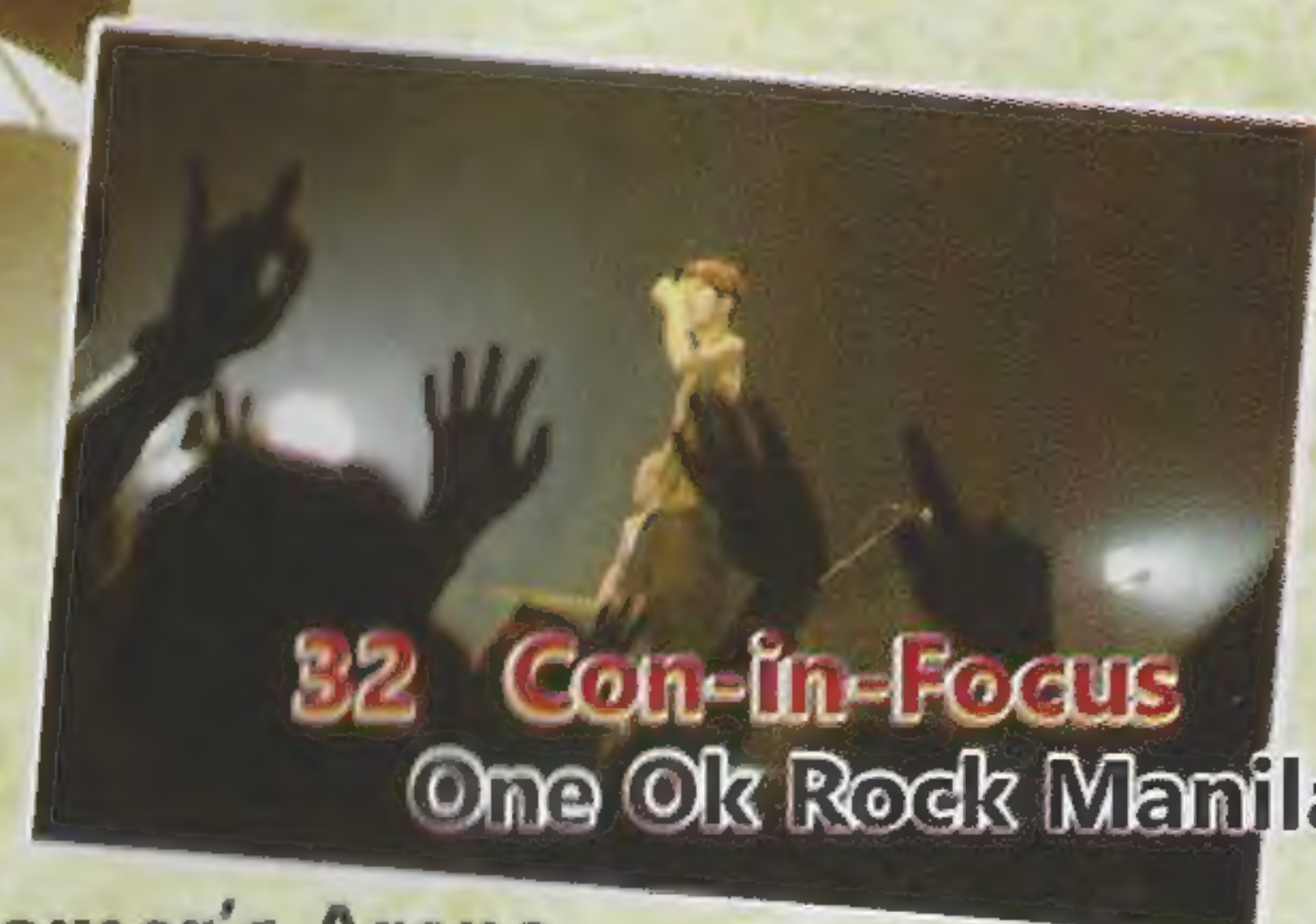
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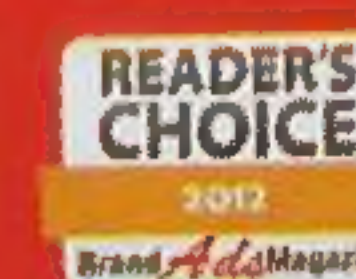
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How are you doing, Otafans?

Summer is here, can you feel the heat? Things are also heating up at Otaku Asia with our review of the recently concluded concert that shook SM Arena, the One OK Rock 35xxxv Tour!!! We also have articles on summer uniforms now that summer has school days and skirt drawing tutorial! What else is hot? Subscription boxes are hot. Figures from E2046 are hot. O-kun Fiesta is HOTTEST!!!

Join us on June 4-5!! We'll wait for you. Love, Kent

CONTRIBUTOR'S QUESTION:

3 things OA Team will do to survive summer

I keep a towelette and a bottle of water inside my bag at all times. And apart from a bath in the morning, I must also take a shower in the evening. As for summer activities it's been a tradition to go to the beach or a resort at least two times. I perspire more than the average person so I always crave for more water
Dhanliza Atayde Cellona

water, more water and someone to remind me to drink water. Somehow, my brain does not tell me to drink often or simply I wasn't trained that way. It's not uncommon for me to get dehydrated because I would always forget to drink. The app, Plant Nanny was helpful but got boring in the end so I stopped.
Kent Diamante

Money, water, and clothes for when I go places. Yay!
Ann Flores

Water, loose clothes and all types of cold drinks and desserts! Haha
Elaine Rose Palaruan

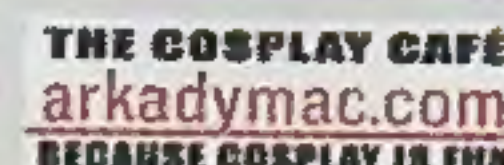
cold food and refreshments and of course we need money money money.... to buy cold stuffs
Dianne Gaviño

Money, cold beverages and of course games to play during the summer lazy days~ devil emoticon
Ren Santos

I need my camera, my bass guitar and and a piece of blanket.. I want to relax under the blue sky taking picture of nice places or view and play music waaaaa I think 3 things is not enough to survive the summer..
Jupiter Fontanos

My PSVita and games, cellphone, and refreshments. Stuff to pass time and entertain myself.
John Robert Lim

PARTNERS:



Hello Otaku Asia!!!

Eto po yung first fanmail ko.. I really enjoy po ung magazine nyo. I got your 25th issue and I LOVE IT!! Very informative po sya at well-organized.

Suggest ko lang po, mas maganda kung maglalagay din po kayo ng news update about new season and ovas of anime. Pa-feature na rin po ng mga top rom com anime gaya po ng haganai, oregairu, to love-ru, nou come, the world god only knows. hehe... Fan po ako ng mga rom com harem plots. Arigatou!!! and continue making awesome mags...

-Gian Nepomuceno

Kon'nichiwa Otaku Asia! & Staff~ Its just my First Time Reading this Wonderful magazine and its also my first time buying One. So anyway, I'm looking forward for the next issue though..

~I hope that you'll cover Law of Ueki or Kyokai No Kanata next even though the anime ended already.

Again, arigatou for the wonderful Mags. and Rock And Roll to the World!! XD

-Joshua Chavez



Owen Dioquino



Argian Cortez



Ma Ezekiel Sabellano



Sofia Bertolano

Konnichiwa minna-san!!!!~ It's actually my first time sending a feedback to Otaku Asia. I hope this message will be featured.

First, I would like to thank all the staff of Otaku Asia for doing a great job in delivering current events, various anime/manga, video games, J-POP, and many more. Good job.

Second, I would like to request to feature some of the anime and games I'll be mentioning. Dangan Ronpa (anime/game), Undertale (game), Zankyou no Terror (anime), Pokemon (anime would be fine, but I prefer the game), and Noragami (anime). I apologize if that was a lot!

Lastly, I would like to greet my friends from all over the world! Also, my classmates, friends, and fellow role-players. Have a great day!

May the feedbacks and compliments you receive inspire you to improve your magazine in order for more people to be attracted to it.~

-Serinne Rule

Hello! minna-san this is my first time to request sana ma Feature/Request yung "Code Geass: Akito The Exiled" !!!

I highly recommend it lalo na sa mga mahihilig sa politics and Sci-Fi na anime. And btw, I Love your magazine worth it ang 100php yun lang po.

Arigato gozaimashita~

-Julius Kingsley Jordan

Hello po sa lahat ng Otaku dyan pangalawang beses na po akong nagsend ng fanmail sainyo dahil po sa gusto ko pong ipakilala sainyo ang idol ko sa pagdrawing ng anime na si Ate Micah Bersabe na kaibigan ko na din po dahil sobra po akong naamaze sa kanyang mga drawings

-Francesca Vizconde

(friend's artwork)



Micah Bersabe

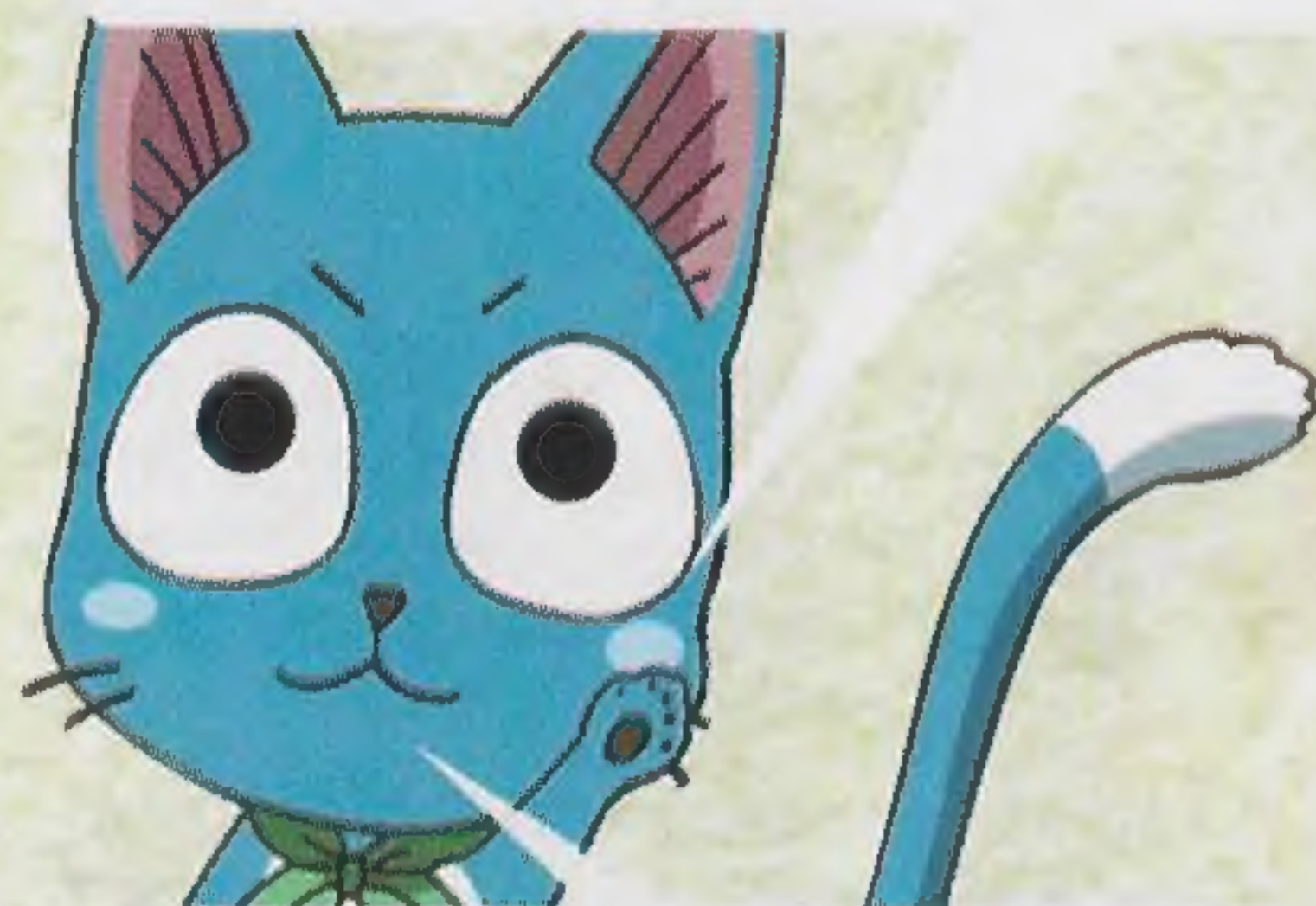
Konnichiwa, OA and minna-san!! Karen Joy Majait here~~ anno... just requesting to feature D.Gray-man anime 2016~~ hohoho

at pabati na rin po ng mga kagrupo ko, TGOOKPH!!! Yeah!! at pati na rin sa mga Otaku ng URS!!!

OA thank you for your hardwork!! GANBATENNE MINNA!! DAISUKI!!

-Karen Joy Majait

Got Requests? Fanmail to shoutout?
Fanart to showoff?
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NEWS COMING UP IN 2016...

by John Robert Lim

Boku no Hero Academia is getting an anime adaptation scheduled for Spring 2016. It is currently one of the "new generation" Shounen Jump manga that's picking up steam and will be something to look forward too.

The wait is over. **Shingeki no Kyojin** will have its season 2 this year. The next installment to the mega hit show which rocked 2013 has no exact release date as of now. This show, which pitted humans fighting for survival against man-eating Titans, has been one of the shows whose sequel got everyone anticipating.

U's of **Love Live** fame would be holding their next live event at the Tokyo Dome on March 31 and April 1. The concert, titled "**U's Final LoveLive!**", along with the announcement of their final music single's release on March 2, certainly sounds like a last hurrah for their massively successful group. If this is indeed goodbye, they would exit at the height of their popularity. As of the end of 2015, the group is considered Japan's 8th best-selling musical act of the year. The group also performed at Kouhaku Uta Gassen (Japan's most-viewed music television program) for the New Year. Love Live sales have gone through the roof, with the movie BD selling 194,000 units in just its first release week.

Trails of Cold Steel and the **Sword Art Online** game series (both for Playstation systems) are expected to resume this year with their respective sequels. The English localization of **Trails of Cold Steel II** is scheduled to be released some time this year by Xseed games. This game will resume from the cliffhanger ending of the first **Trails of Cold Steel** game. As for **Sword Art Online**, the next game, **Hollow Realization**, will be released this 2016 thanks to Bandai Namco. **Hollow Realization** puts the cast in the next stage, a new game called "**Sword Art Origin**". This game could also coincide with the already-confirmed **Sword Art Online** movie and its speculated release date of 2016.



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Magi: Sinbad no Bouken TV anime serialization on April

by Kahlua

Last January, Aniplex streamed an announcement video of the TV anime adaptation of the spin-off manga **Magi: Sinbad no Bouken** (**Magi: Adventure of Sinbad**) written by Shinobu Ohtaka and illustrated by Yoshifumi Ohtera will be aired this April.

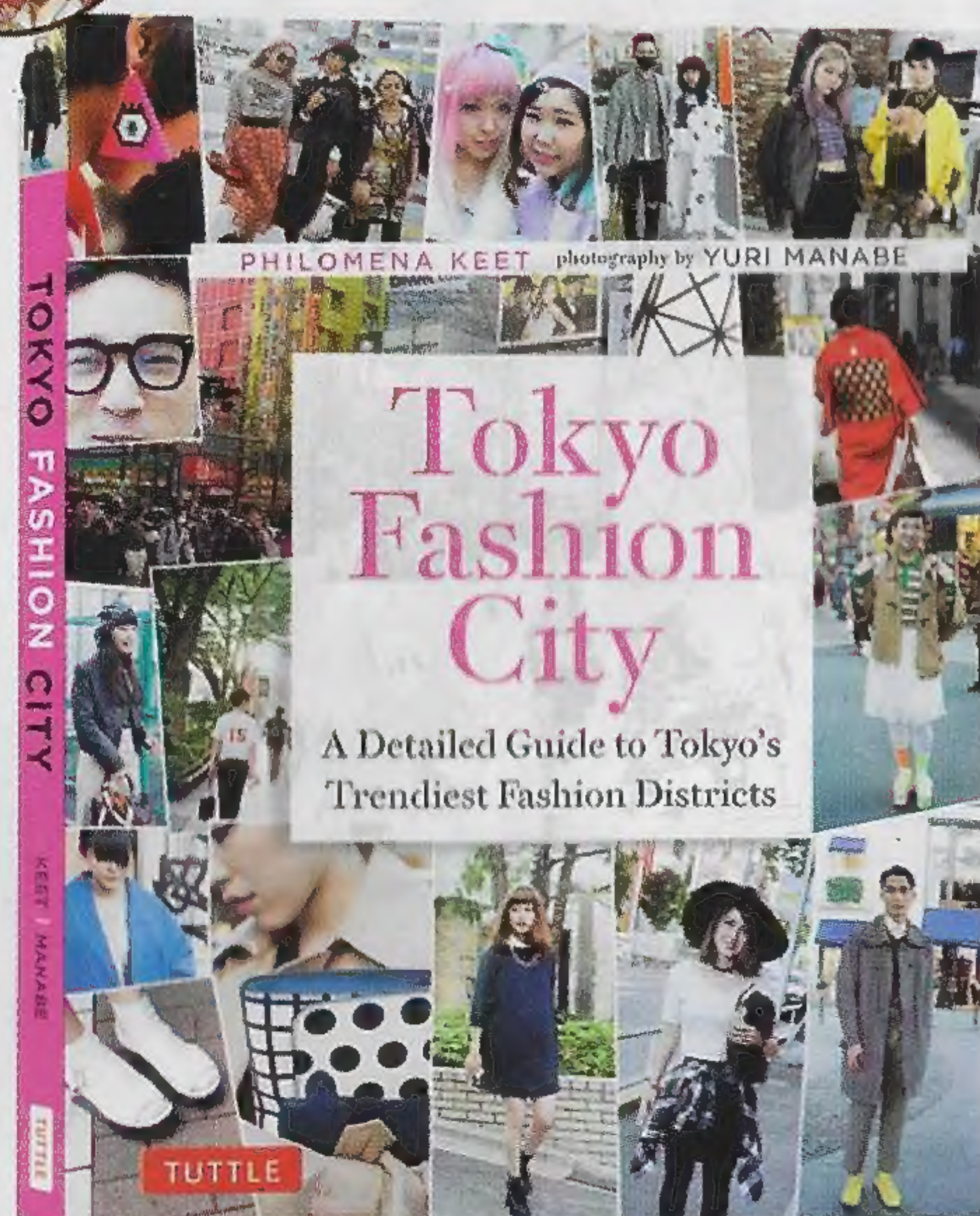
The said series is reported to include the Baal arc, Valefor arc, Badr arc, Sasan arc up to Artemyra arc from the manga. Initially, the seven volumes of the manga has been made into five Original Video Animations (OVAs) in 2014 to 2015, each episode bundled with various volumes of the manga.

This upcoming anime adaptation will be casted by the same main staff and cast from the previous OVA series, including Yoshikazu Miyao as the director, Taku Kishimoto who is in charge of the off scripts, Souichirou Sako for the character designs and Tomihiro Okubo for the composition of music. In addition, Daisuke Ono from the main series will also be returning to join the project as Sinbad once again.

As the prequel of the **Magi: The Labyrinth of Magic**, the manga is set 30 years before the main story focusing on the journey of Sinad in becoming the king.



HOOKED BOOK



Tokyo Fashion City

A Detailed Guide to Tokyo's Trendiest Fashion Districts

By Philomena Keet
Photos by Yuri Manabe

Release date: February 2016
ISBN 978 4 8053 1339 8
Tuttle Publishing

Fashion is one of the biggest things that influence society today. Each country and culture has different fashion statement that makes them stand out and makes people want to follow their style. Let's see the different fashion styles and more in Tokyo through this book, Tokyo Fashion City!

This book will take you into the journey throughout the eight highlighted trendy Tokyo neighborhoods through the mesmerizing photos and the guides through backgrounds about these trends with interesting captions accompanying them. Not only these, the book will also introduce readers about what the Tokyoites are wearing, where they are shopping, eating, drinking and where do they like to hang-out. The book will also feature area maps with shop and café listings to guide you in these trendy streets.

The areas highlighted in this book are:

- Harajuku – a place where high fashion rubs shoulders with hip-hop style
- Shibuya – the birthplace of the "gal" and stomping ground for the Tokyo's most sophisticated fashionistas.
- Daikanyama – the hipster hang-out
- Shinjuku and Ikebukuro – the goth and geek
- Koenji and Nakano – the bohemian and otaku respectively
- Ginza – where the lunching ladies and dapper gentlemen play
- Akihabara – the cosplay paradise
- East Tokyo – where everyday fashion gets a traditional touch

Tokyo Fashion City is by Philomena Keet who is a British anthropologist with a PhD in Tokyo Street Fashion from London University SOAS. She currently lives in Tokyo. Her work is accompanied by the photos of Yuri Manabe, a Tokyo-based photographer whose works appeared in a variety of prestigious magazines.

With this book standing as a street style photo album and as a guide, Tokyo Fashion City is a must get book for people who would be interested in Tokyo fashion and those who want to visit these trendy streets of Tokyo.

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Summer Uniforms by lizae 3.0

From culture, traditions, and literature, Japan reveres the four seasons, each one creating a different experience for the Japanese. Even anime in Japan are divided into spring, summer, fall, and winter, with themes and setting quite relevant to the season where it belongs. This importance given to seasons is also apparent in the uniforms worn by students in Japan. In this case, however, there are only two types of uniforms: winter and summer uniforms.

Most Japanese students do not wear summer uniforms until the calendar hits June 1st or until their schools tell them to do so. It is a grief to bear wearing the usual thick winter uniforms, waiting for the day of the switch, as there are extremely hot days between spring and summer. But summer in Japan is not just all about the hot weather and humidity. This season is both full of sunshine and rain. Thus, summer uniforms are made comfortable for students to wear in the changing weather. Forgot the umbrella on a rainy day? Students can run to the nearest shade they could find without having any trouble with their clothes. Sweaty under the summer heat? The uniforms are made comfortable for students to move around and fan themselves.

The summer variation of uniforms is much simpler than you could ever think of, thinner and shorter than the average length (sleeves, length of girls' skirts). Although it depends on the school, students are not usually required to wear vests and blazers from June to September.



Let's have a little throwback from 2012 in the anime *Hyouka*, with Oreki Houtarou and Chitanda Eru sporting their summer uniforms. These are the most commonly known summer uniform designs and are also worn by students in Japan.


Oreki is wearing a plain white top with a gray undershirt (and green in some episodes). Because of this uniform's simplicity and traditional style, the school emblem has been imprinted on the shirt pocket of the uniform as an additional detail. This summer uniform is actually an undershirt for a black *gakuran*, Oreki's winter uniform. The straight cut black pants he is wearing are also the common pants worn by male students in Japan during spring and summer.

Chitanda is gracing her short-sleeved sailor uniform or *seifuku* as it is famously known in Japan. The color scheme of Chitanda's character design complements the black and white striped collar and

slate gray ribbon. Like Oreki, the pocket of her uniform also has the school emblem attached to it for the purpose of carrying the school identity wherever they go. Most especially, the black knife-pleated skirt and white socks complete this type of uniform best.

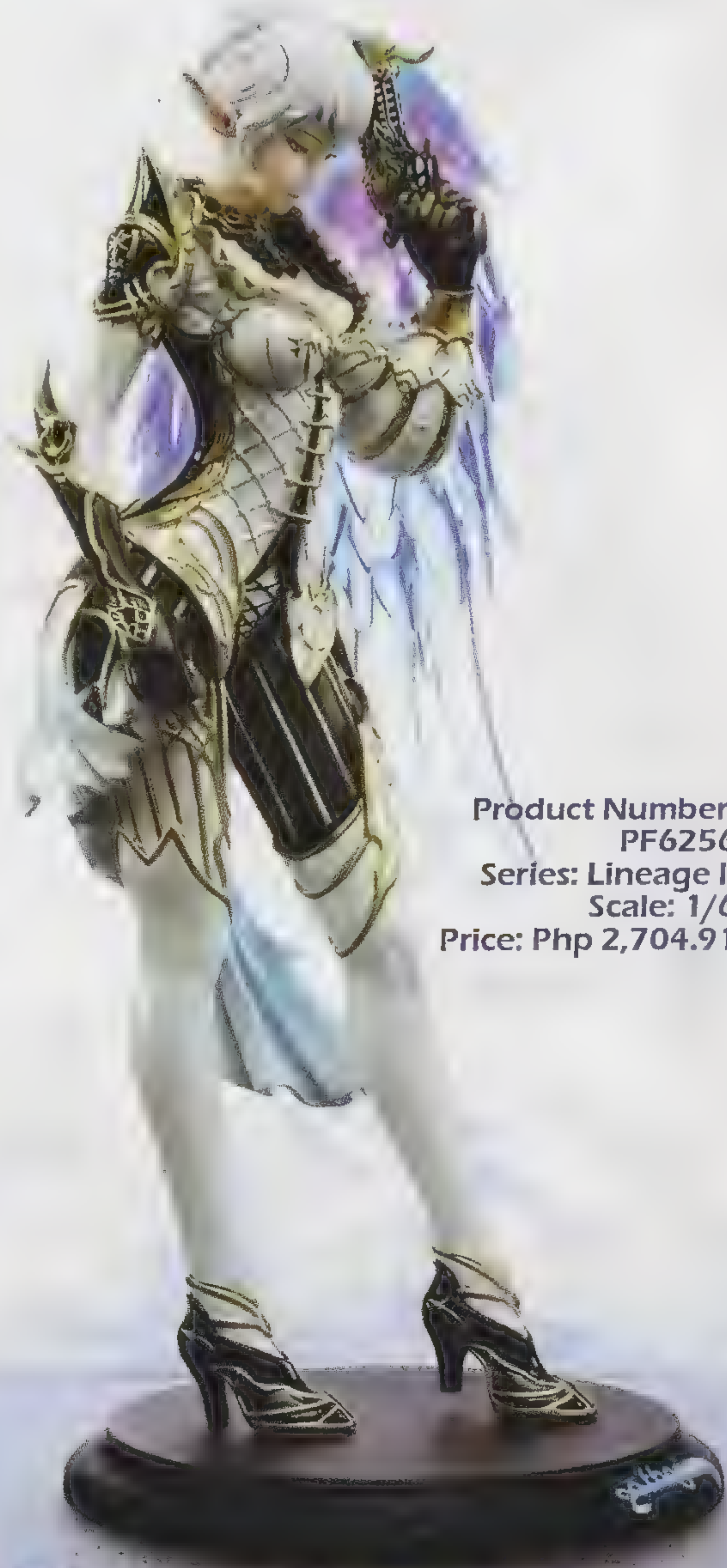
Basically, summer uniforms are the "lighter and lesser" counterparts of winter uniforms. Remove all the insanely long sleeves, thick coats, blazers, vests, and there you have it, the summer uniform. Despite the simplicity of summer uniforms, it dates back to a long history when there had been a great Western influence in Japan in the early 19th century. It greatly contributed to Japan's modernism now, and that alone should not have a lesser meaning.

Since adapting to the K to 12 program, some schools here in the PH also has adapted a summer uniform. Like in UST, they call it the Type-B uniform. But generally, because of the climate in the PH, most uniforms are already cool and comfortable enough for both seasons.

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TYPE B UNIFORM





Kamael

Product Number:
PF6256
Series: Lineage II
Scale: 1/6
Price: Php 2,704.91

They are creatures that were created by the Gods as a living combat weapon though the rest of their origins are shrouded in mystery. They are known to worship Mother Nornil.

The Kamaels are born in the Era of the Myths and are confined in the area called the Isle of Souls in order to preserve their culture. They started appearing again in the continent after a long period of isolation under the guidance of the Gods in order to fight with other races in fighting Shilen's minions. The Kamaels stay and play their role in the current times of chaos.

Their existing races agreed to cooperatively battle against the monsters of Aden. They have established different embassies in the Kamael village with the secrets of teleporting to the Isle of Souls passes on their leaders. With the Goddess of Destruction awoken, they continue to fight alongside the other races.

Their strange background grants them different abilities depending on their gender and are known to be the only Fighter race that can later on become a Wizard



Sculpting:

They did a pretty good job in sculpting this figure. The details of her clothing are finely sculptured, making the figure more attractive to the eye. Her gun's intricate details are also excellently captured. Their signature one wing is also very attractive and nicely done and is one of the very eye-catching part of this model. The details made her look more realistic, like for instance the details of the folds of her clothing and the braids of her hair.

Painting:

The painting is nicely done as well, making her look elegant and the color combination is very pleasing to look at. The gem accents were made more realistic with the painting, as if the gems are real. Along with the translucent wing is a gradient-like paint job that made it more magical and very attractive to look at. The smooth paintjob made it differentiate the armor parts material, adding to the appeal of the figure.

Price:

For an 11-inch figure, this is a very worth it to buy and add for your collection even if you're not a fan of the game. Plus, Those wigs could take you places!



HIRYU

Product Number: FG9454
Series: Capcom Strider
Height: 30 cm
Weight: 0.87kg
Scale: 1/6
GK Parts: 57



This is a trip back in time. I don't think I have played any Capcom since highschool. Hiryu is a favorite of the boys that I play with in Timezone.

Sculpting:

I like that this is his old design (they've upgraded him back in 2014). If I'm not mistaken, this is his 1999 design (because the hair) and it is a very good sculpt. The folds of his scarf and the muscles... oh yeah~

This is a puzzle since there are 57 pieces. The belt is individually connected. My, how detailed. The stand is interesting too. Is that gavel or did he break pavement? Somehow, anything is possible with Strider.

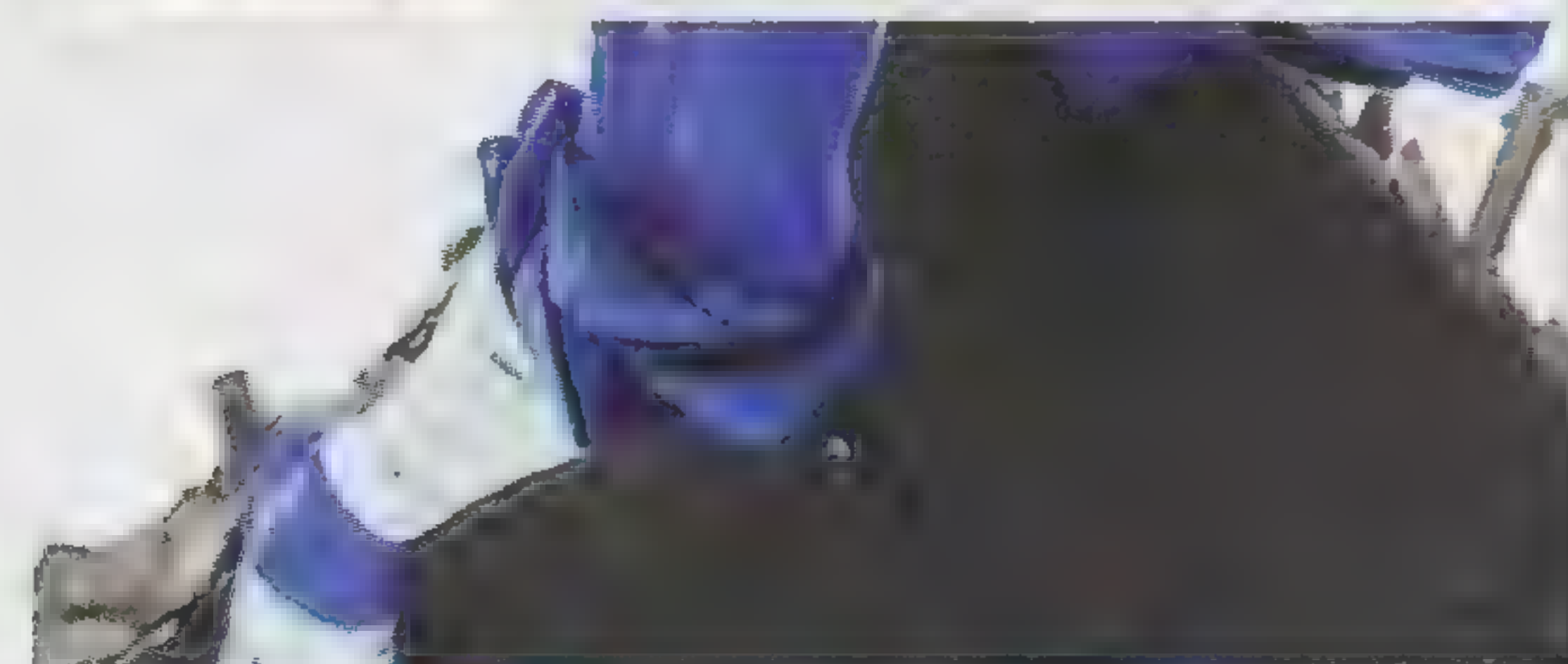
Painting:

In the pre-painted version, his face is well defined by lines and details but the rest of the figure isn't. This leaves the design to the GK artist if he will also draw those 90's comic action lines. Gotta be consistent.

Also, I hoped they would have the color of the belt on his shoulder right. (It's brown)

Price:

For Php 2,644.75, this could really work. Relieve your nostalgia with your favorite Strider Hiryu!



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@thaiteaph



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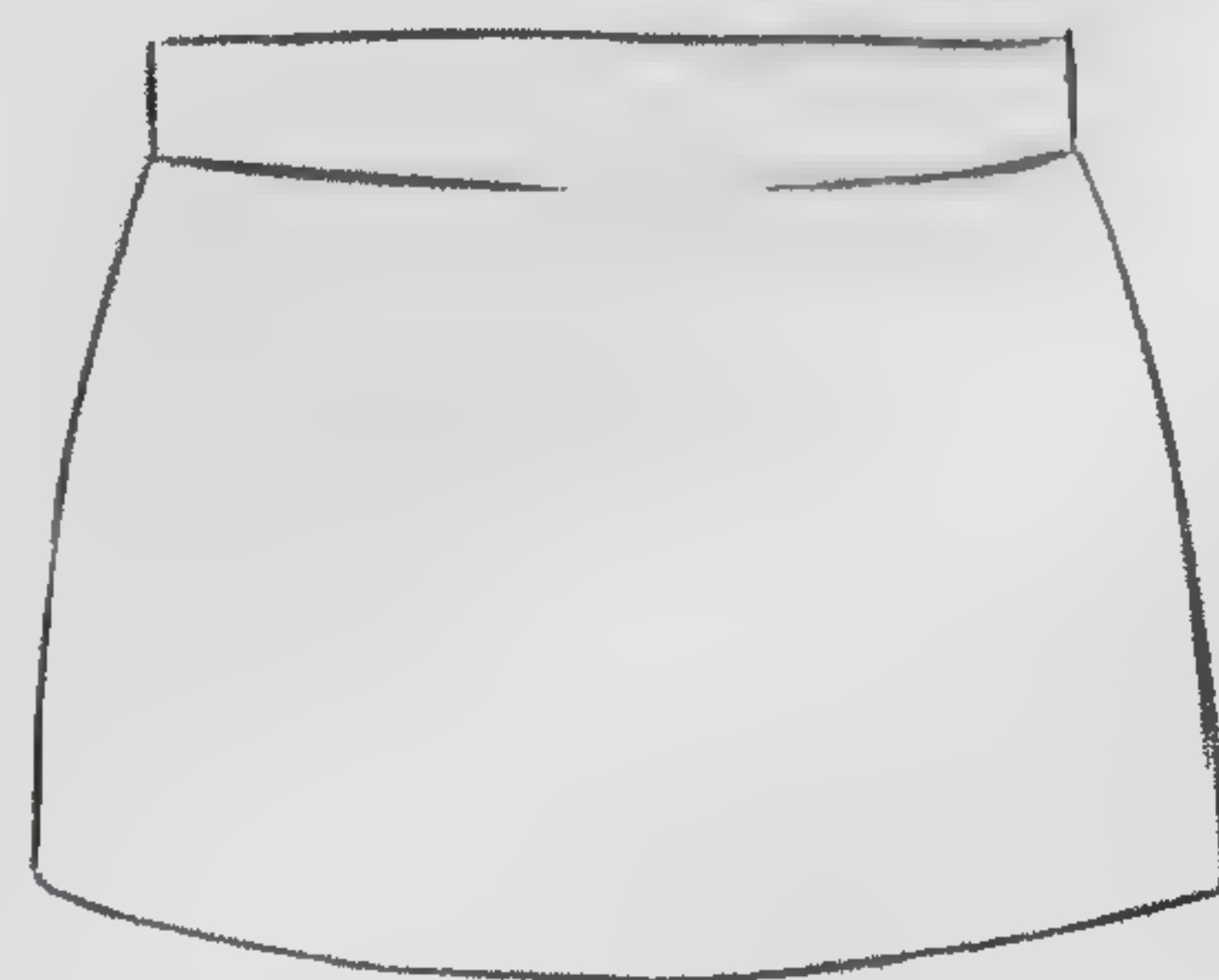
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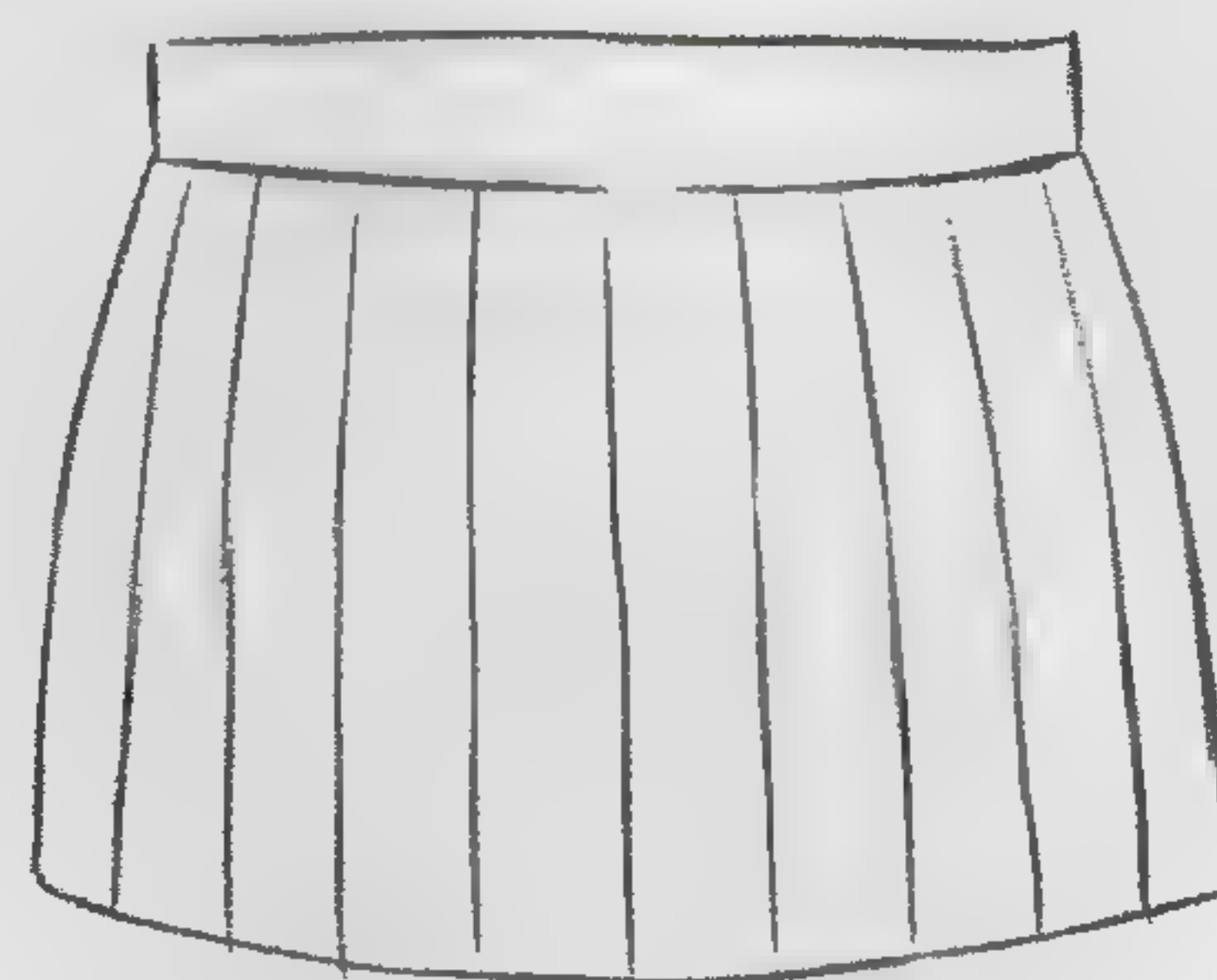


drawing pleated skirts~~

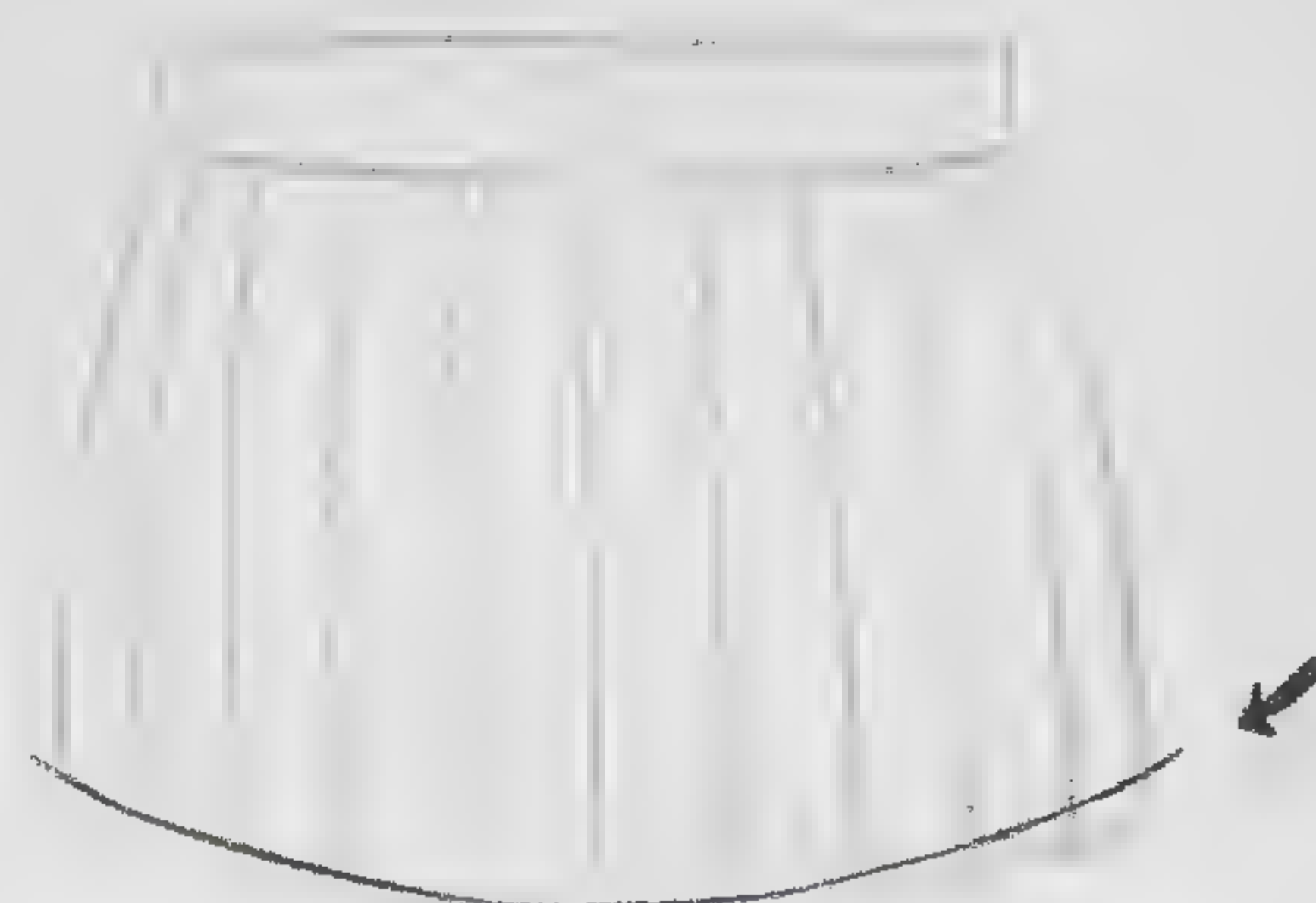
Xander here~ Now in this tutorial, I'll teach you how to draw pleated skirts. We all know that most female anime characters wear this type of skirt. But not many know how to properly draw it. I'll be helping you using a few steps to deal with it!



1. Start with a simple skirt with the length of your choice



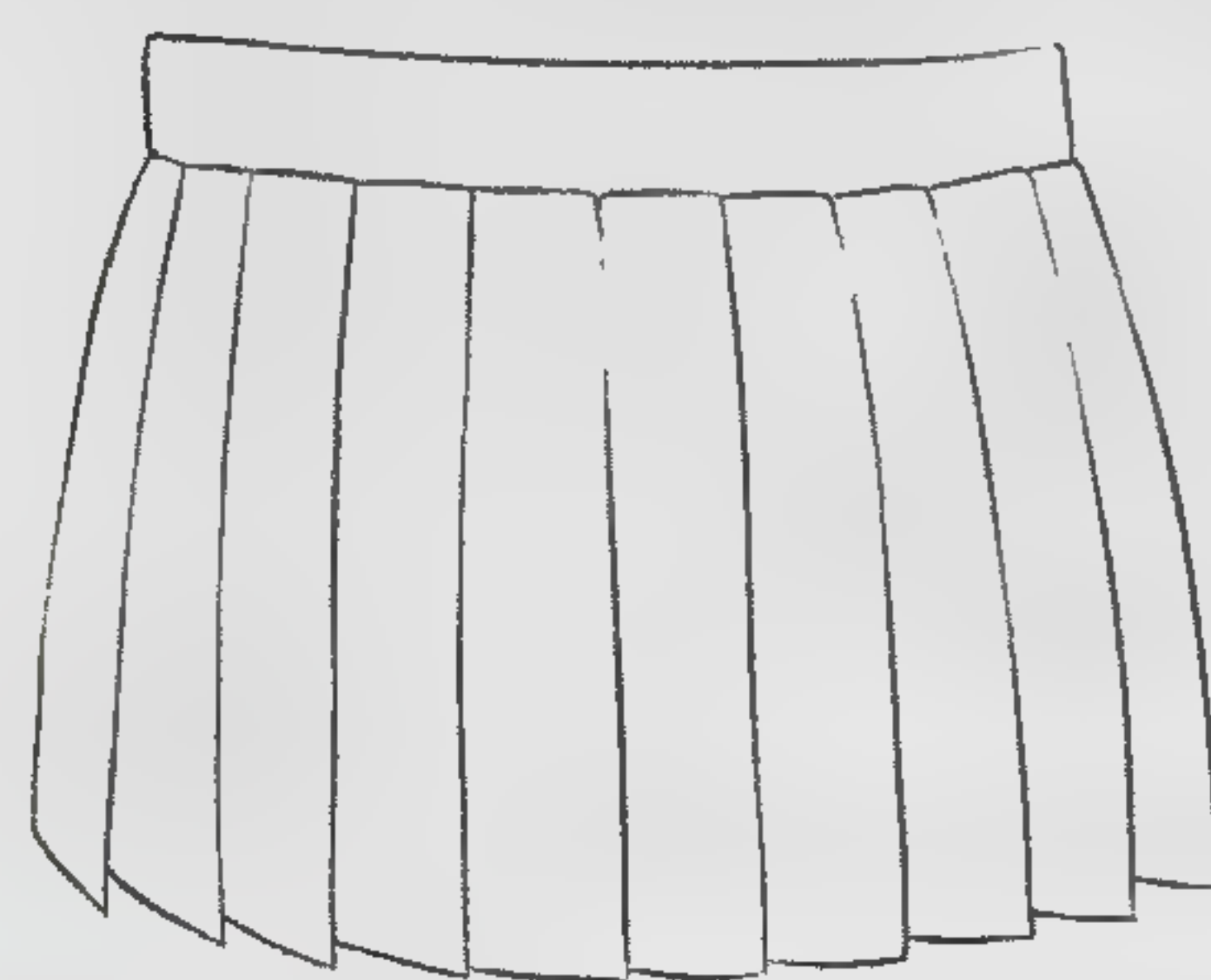
2. Now let us add vertical lines to be our folds



3. Draw a line as shown. It doesn't have to be neat as this is only a guideline



4. Following the lines we drew on step 2-3, draw zigzag lines

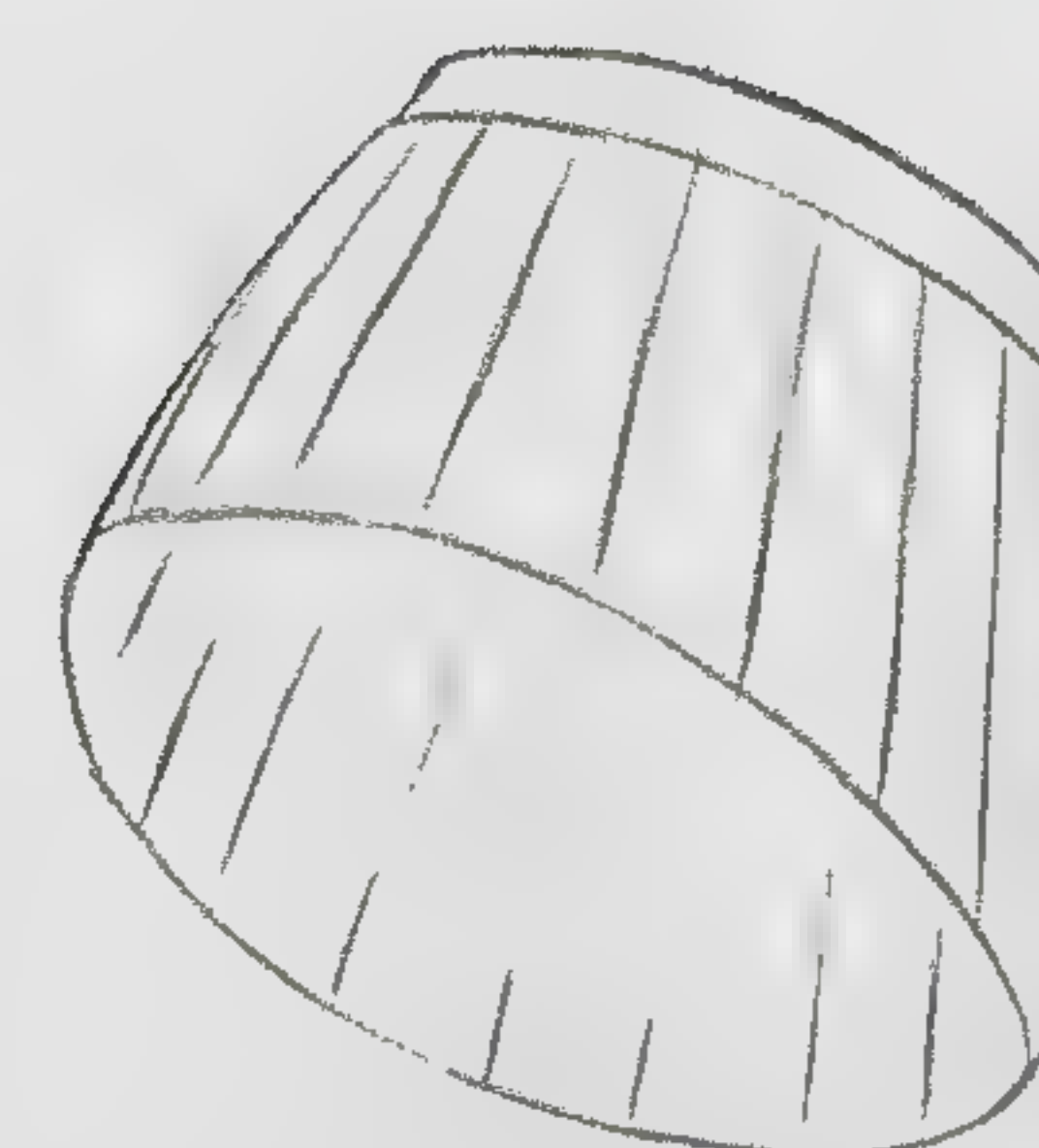


5. Now clean your lines. Erase guidelines and add details if needed

another angle



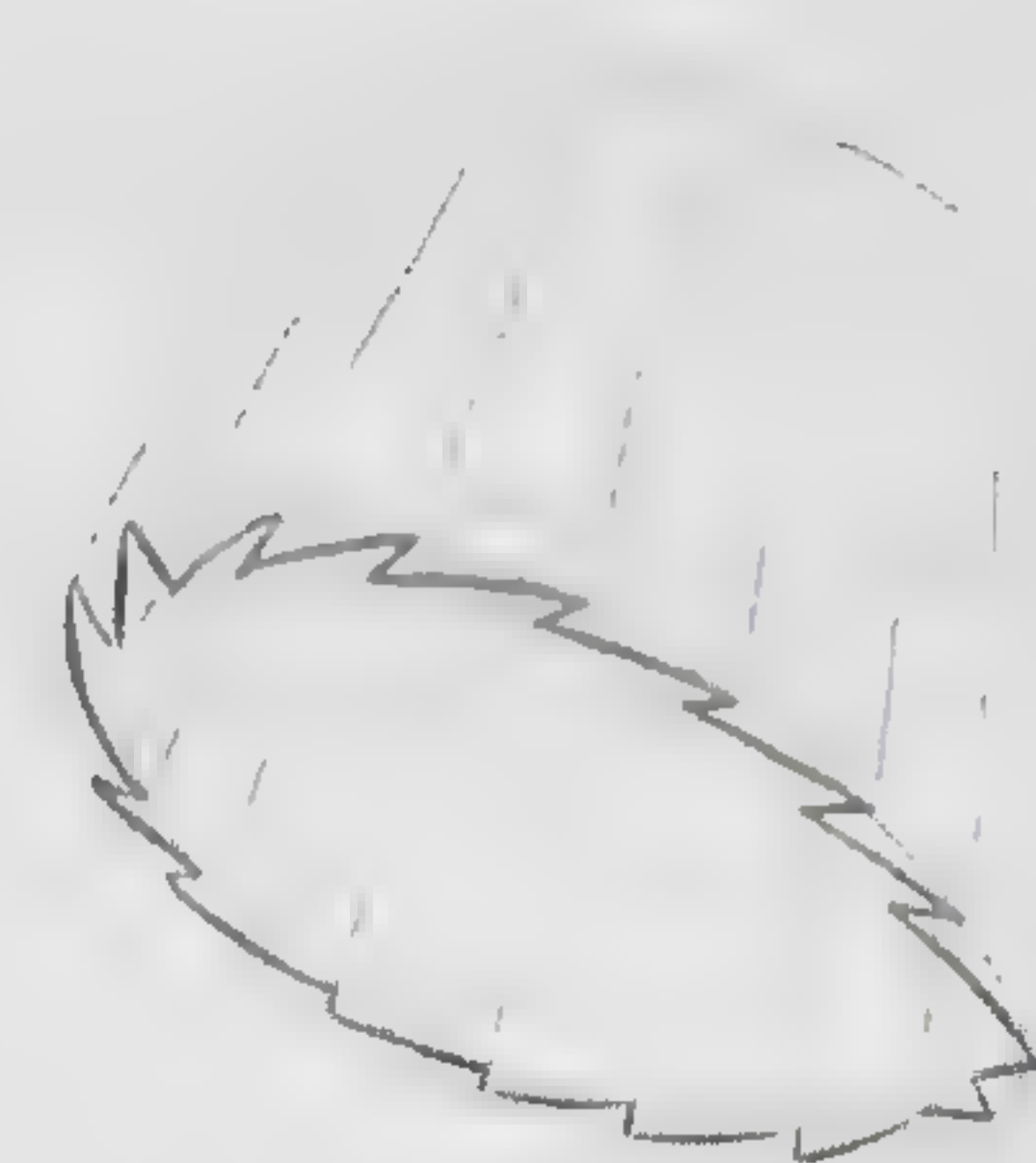
1. Draw the general shape of the skirt as base



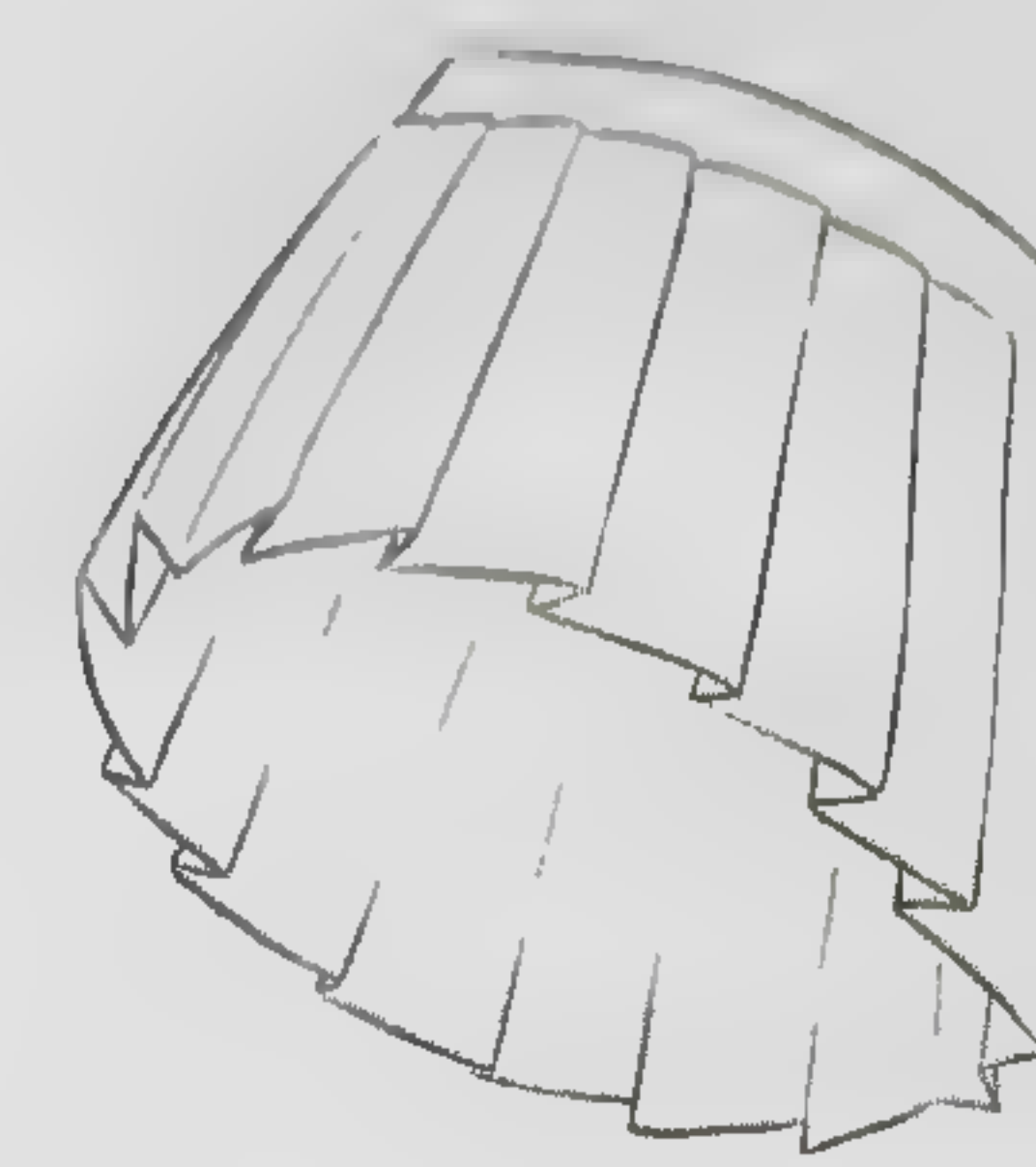
2. One again, the vertical lines for the folds



3. Then the guideline for the folds



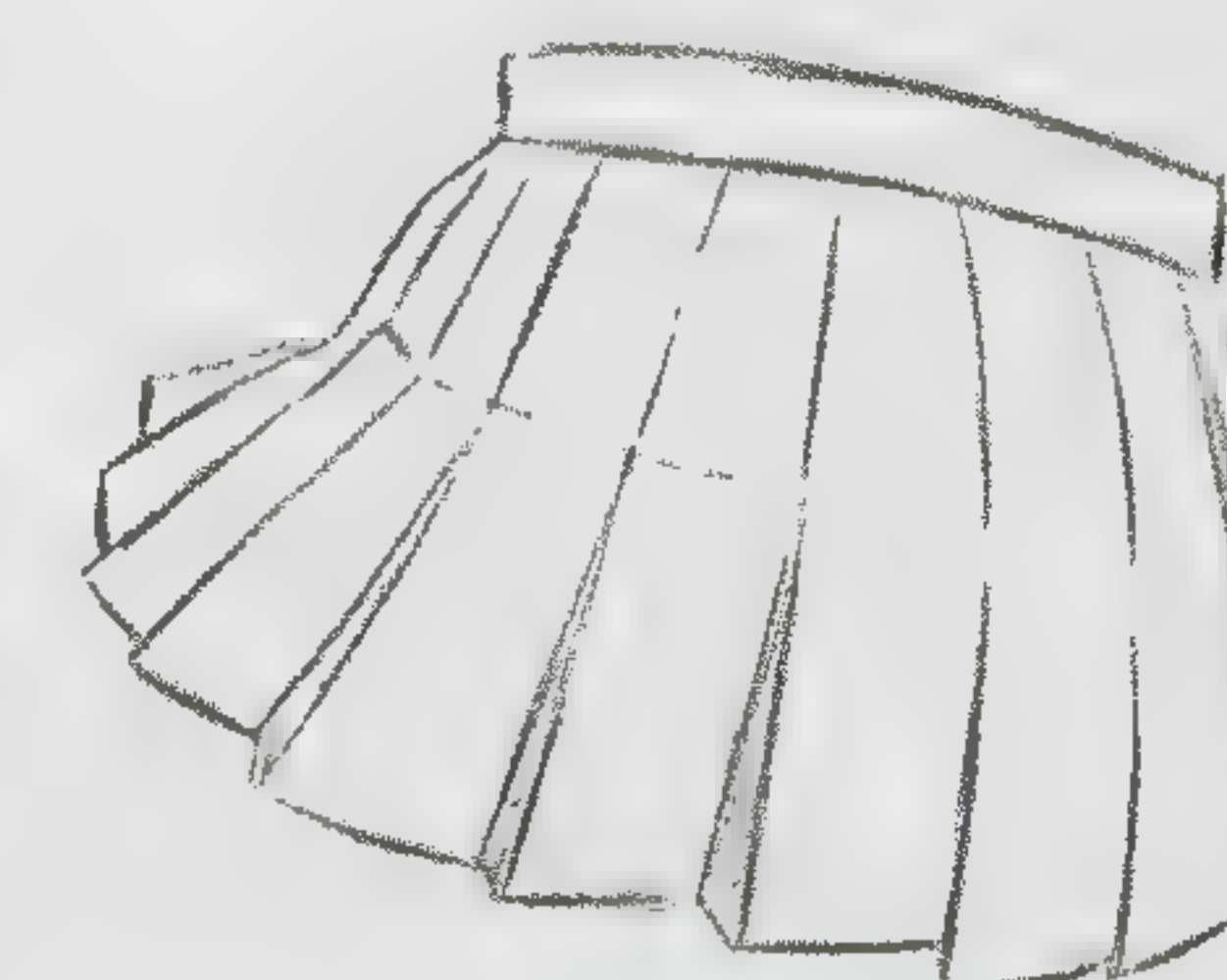
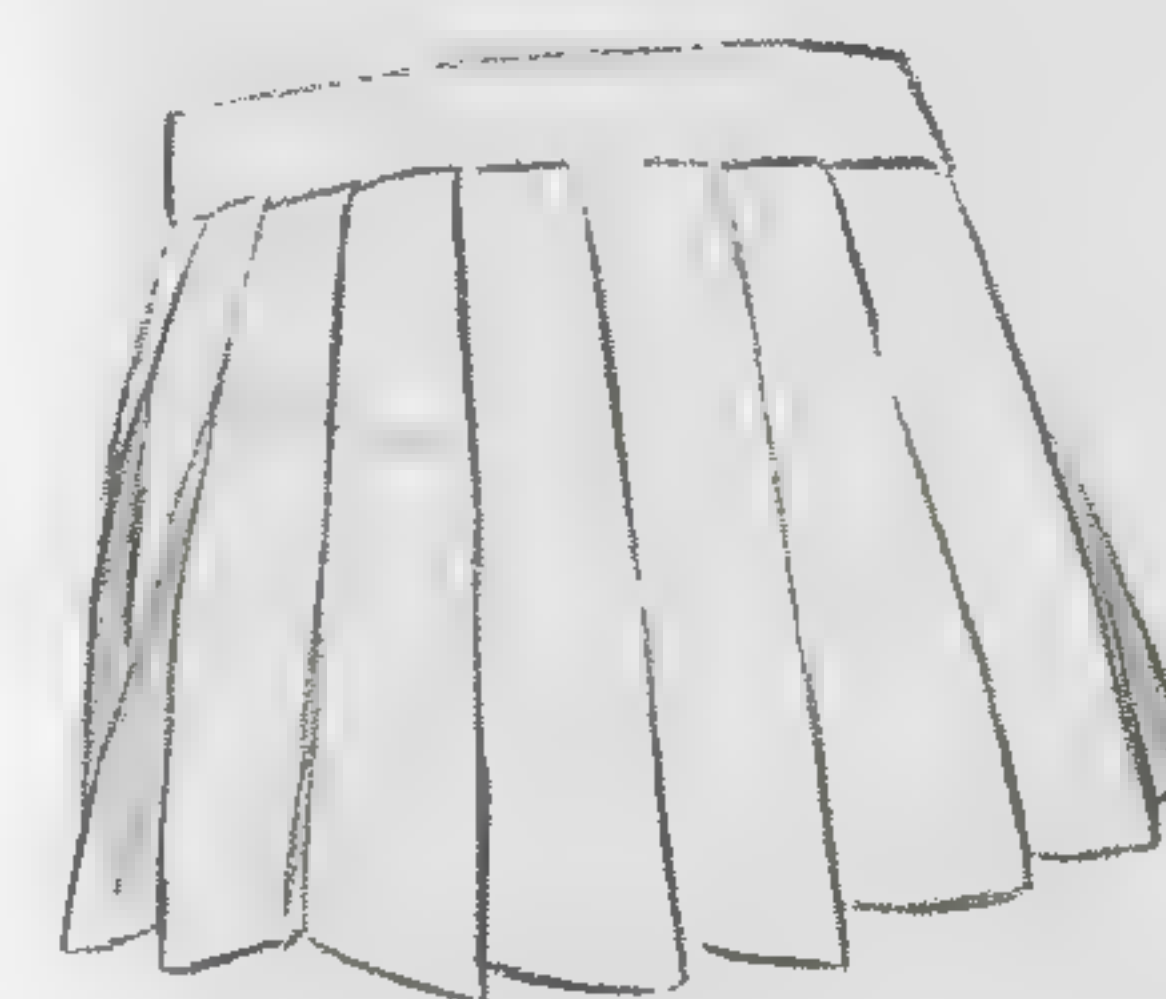
4. Zigzag your way around the skirt



5. Cleanup

Here are some more sketches for your reference, I hope it helps you!

If you have a suggestion for our next Art of Otaku, just email us at otakuasiaanimemag@gmail.com





OTAKU LIFE HACKS SUBSCRIPTION BOX?

by kanddy

If you haven't heard of subscription boxes, they are a marketing strategy and a method of product distribution. Basically, it's a mystery box of a variety of goods. Here in the PH, not many have yet tried subscription boxes but we will make you want to get one.

Here are a few recommended boxes that are from none other than, JAPAN and yes, they all ship to the Philippines, we checked.

JAPAN FREEDOM MARKET

freedomjapanesemarket.com



What is better than FREE shipping?? Additionally the products are straight from Japan. We've also been informed that most of the items are sold exclusively in Japan rather than the "made for foreign market" packages.

This family business' customer service is also very good and would also add a list of items the box should have so you don't have to read Japanese (if you can't).

Minimum of \$15 for a single box .

KAWAII BOX

kawaiiibox.com // japancandybox.com

8-10 items each box and packed with all things kawaii. Sample brands include Sanrio, San-x and Rilakkuma. Their box is one-size and one month is 18.90\$

They have a megabox raffle every month which contains even more items! The whole box would cost around 100\$

Their other branch, Japan Candy Box is of course full of candies from Japan. One month would cost 19.90\$ while a 6 month, 18.90\$ a month (save 6\$)



NANDEMO BOX

nandemobox.com

This box has two options: Snacks or Kawaii and they could actually have the biggest variety of items (to our knowledge)

They also ship worldwide for free. Their boxes range from 25\$ or 35\$ monthly with 6-8 items per box and at around 1 pound in weight.

The company operated directly from Osaka, Japan.



TOKYO TREAT

tokyotreat.com

This one we're sure is straight from Japan and is managed by a wonderful team.

They have a small 14.99\$/month, regular 24.99\$/month and premium 34.99\$/month. With FREE shipping.

This box would be a great companion to watching Dagashi Kashi. We are actually looking forward to subscribing to this box.



BETOYO BENTO

betoyo.com

Do not be fooled by their website. They are legit and actually the most otaku box we can find. You read that right: otaku.

They will put figures and toys in your box from gashapon to posters, to prints! For only 36.67\$/month for 3 months, though it may vary because of the SF to the Philippines.

They guarantee to only send you legit good rather than bootleg ones.



OTAKU GOODIES

SABER ALTER

Product Number: FG9454
Series: Fate Series
Scale: 1/7

Saber Alternative is the dark Saber after being corrupted but it did not change her from being a king (King Arthur Pendragon).

Sculpting:

What I'm excited for here are the details on the chair and the frills on her... night gown. Although the back of the chair only has a magic circle, and a less detailed texture, we still get a teasing pose and those strong eyes.

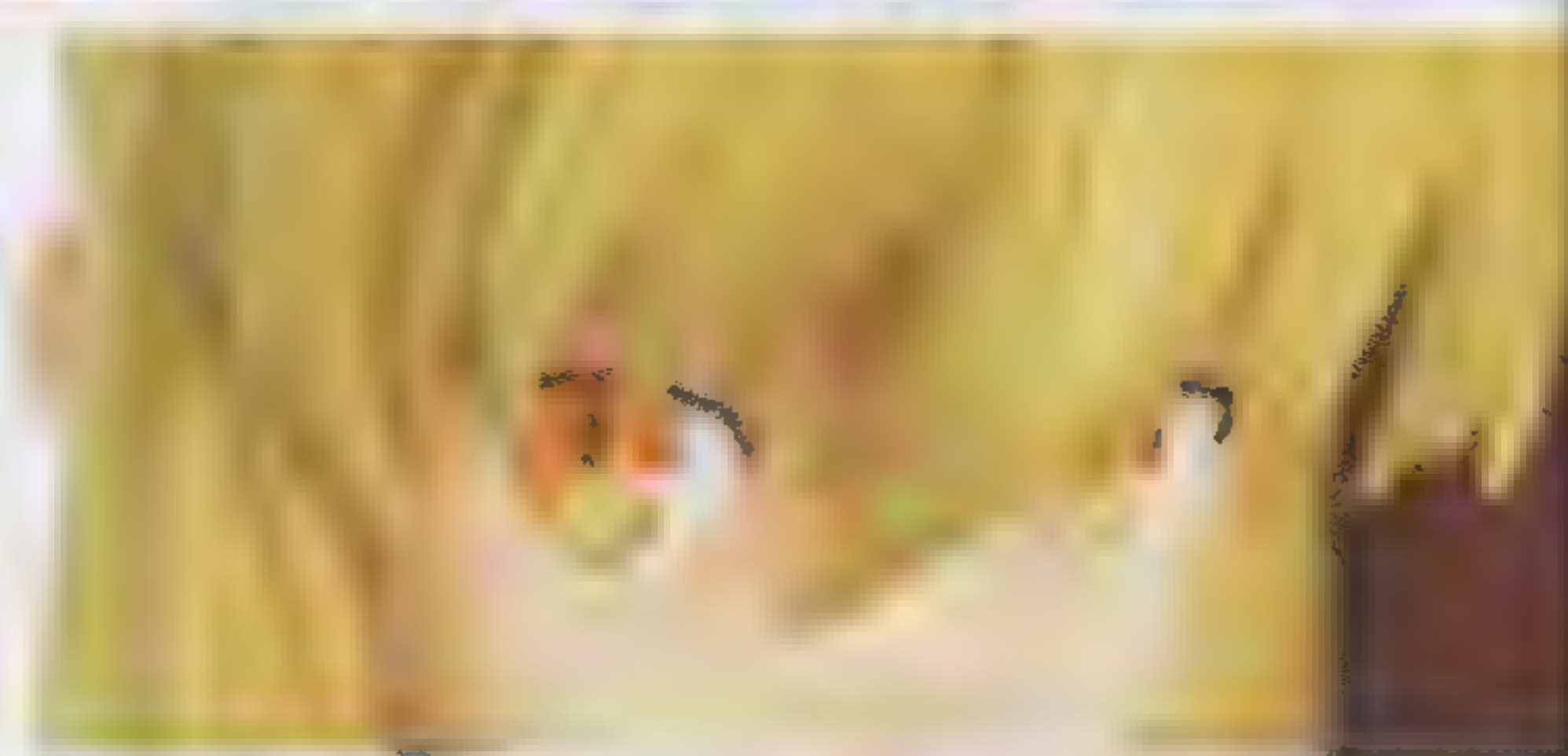
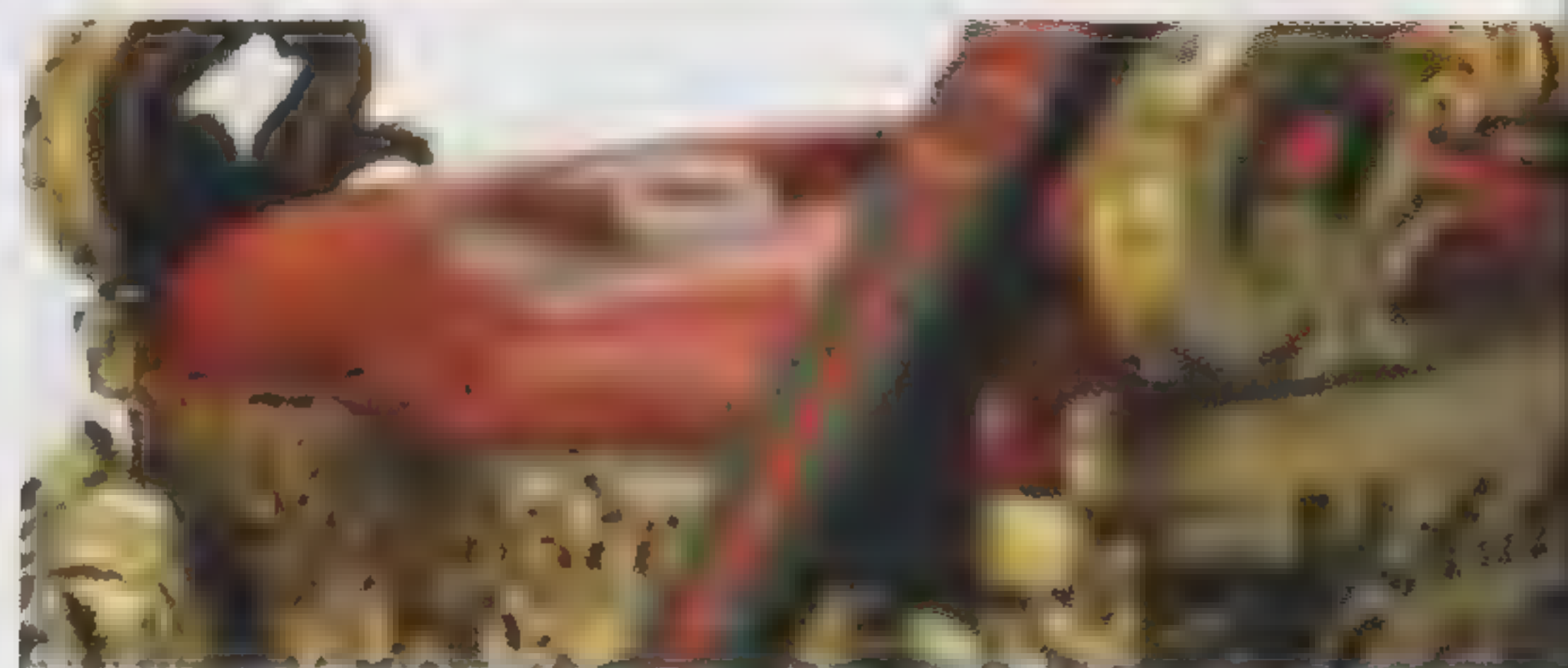
Every figure collector would always be happy to have a throne in their collection so this is exciting to own.

Painting:

Just by looking at the pictures, I'm sure that the chair will be some challenge to beginners. However, because of her pose, we're sure that Saber will be easy to paint. Her skin is most exposed so it could also be a practice on skin painting.

Price:

As of the writing of this article, the figure has just been purchased. Right now, the pre-painted would be Php 6,078.60 while the GK would be Php 2,052.10 which sounds reasonable for the original figure is around 8K.



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AVAILABLE LOCATIONS NATIONWIDE:





imitating anime Food!!

by Kanddy

2015 might have been the year of anime food thanks to Koufuku Graffiti and Shokugeki no Souma. However, 2016 is just starting and we don't think it will let a year pass without good food. We'll share recipes that could bring some anime food right to your table.



Akagami no Shirayuki Hime is a good anime to source recipes because the main character, Shirayuki is a herbalist and will make the best and healthiest food for you (and Zen)!

This is from episode 11, the invention of Roka tea. We will proceed with garlic tea as shown and sweeten it with lemon.

Ingredients (for one cup):

3 cloves garlic
pinch of black pepper whole
1 tbsp apple cider vinegar
1 bay leaf
2 tbsp honey
1 slice lemon

Directions:

Mix the vinegar, honey in a mug and pour **BOILING** water. Steep for a minute. Prepare the garlic, pepper and bay leaf in a mason jar. Pour the first mixture on the garlic and cover. Steep again for a minute.

Pour in a mug and add honey or lemon to sweeten.

While our recipe is only for one cup, you can make it your own and make a whole pot to share~

Garlic helps treating sore throats, colds, flu and poor digestion. Above all, it really helps your immune system.



It's a cheesecake!

Even with the group gone, we can be happy that SM Cinemas brought the last Love Live movie to us.

For this, we will make a cheesecake using a ricecooker (because even I don't have an oven).

Ingredients:

a block of cream cheese
2 eggs
80g sugar
2 tbsp lemon juice
200 ml whole milk/ heavy cream
40 g cake flour

Directions:

Mix all the ingredients together thoroughly. Sieve the mixture to take out the lumps. Place in a ricecooker and cook normally as you would to regular rice. Do the toothpick test to see if it's cooked through.

When done, let cool in the fridge. Transfer to a plate and enjoy!

As usual, you can make this recipe your own and garnish with fruits or syrup as you like. This recipe is adapted from Make Food. Eat Food. in youtube.com.



Pancake

Ingredients:

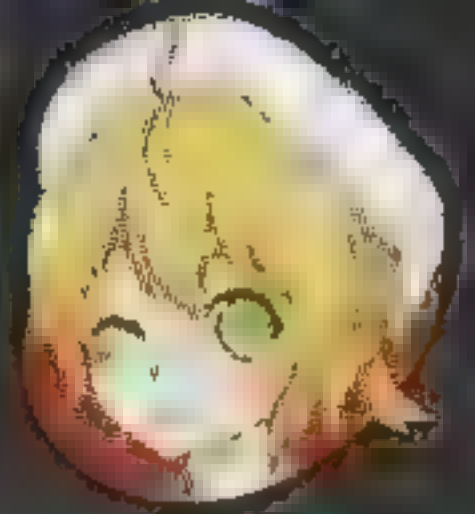
pancake mix	chocolate syrup
strawberries	banana
blueberries	whipped cream

Directions:

Cook the pancake. Use a cookie cutter so that the cakes are thick. Let cool. Top with fruits and cream for every layer and garnish with chocolate syrup.

Perfect dessert but don't feed to rabbits.

From Gochuumon wa Usagi Desu ka? is this tower of sweet things. We don't have much to say since the ingredients are obvious but still...



CON-IN-FOCUS

ONE OK ROCK

2016 "35XXXV" ASIA TOUR

January 19, 2016
SM Mall of Asia Arena

Our prayers have been answered!!

One Ok Rock Manila was held last January 19, 2016 at SM Mall of Asia Arena. The show is set to start at 8pm but long lines of people could already be seen outside the Arena as early as ten in morning, patiently waiting for the gates to be opened!!

You could see the joy and excitement of the fans and attendees once the gates opened.



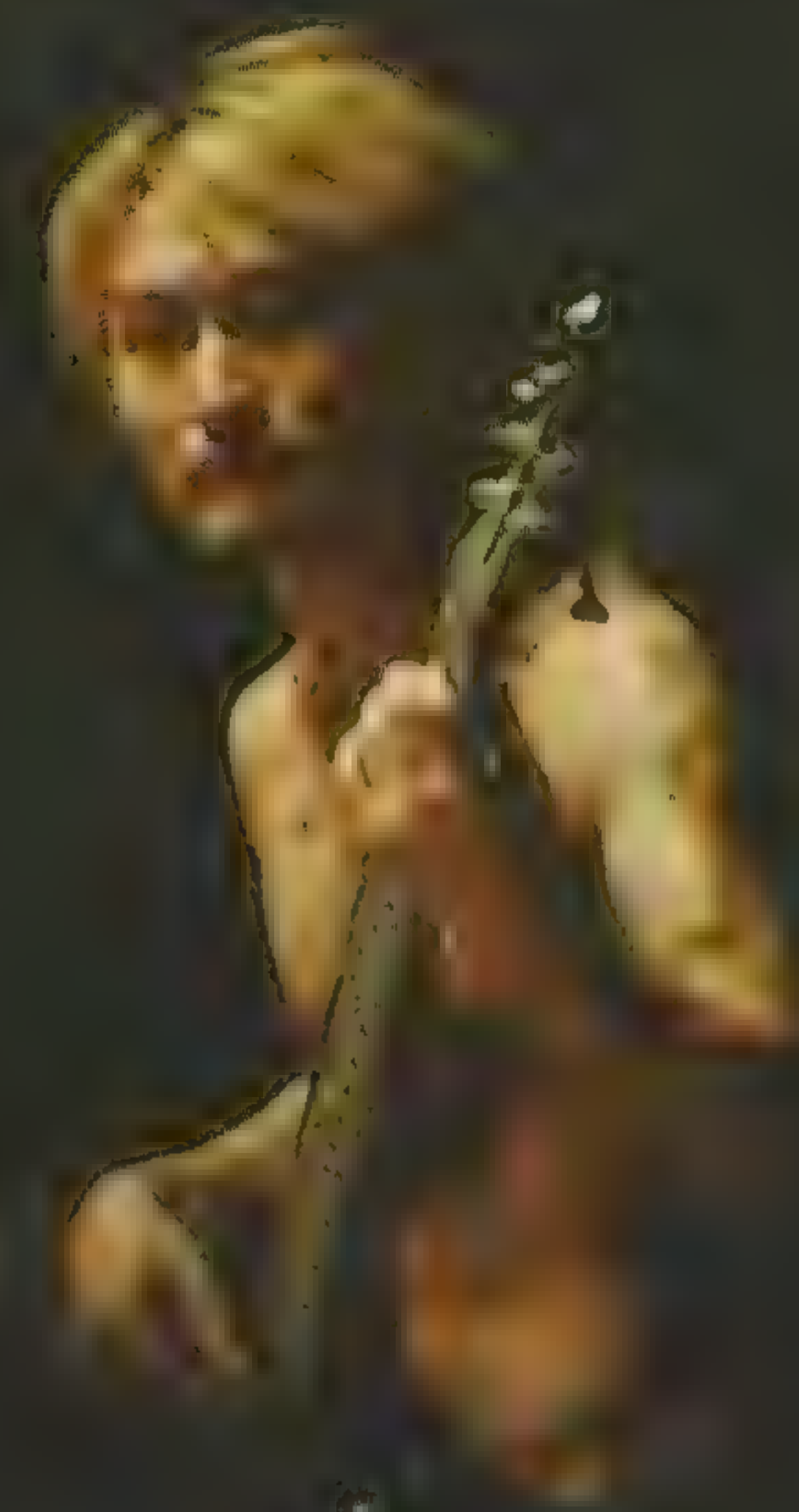
One Ok Rock has a total of 6 members from the time of its debut. The formation of the group began in 2005 when Toru Yamashita was still a highschool student. He decided to form a band his friend Ryota Yamashita together with Alex Onizawa (former member), Taka Moriuchi and Tomo (former member). Later on, Tomoya Kanki joined them in the year 2006 and he became an official member in the year 2007. It was in the year 2010 when they became the four member band group that we know up to this time.

Their band name "One Ok Rock" came from the word *one o'clock*. This is the time when they usually practice on weekends. They chose one o'clock AM since the rehearsal space that they use was cheaper to use during this time. They noticed that "l" and "r" in Japanese doesn't have a difference so from "One O'krock" it was changed to "One Ok Rock"; separating k from 'krock' and joining it with the letter O.

The One Ok Rock Manila concert was available for as low as P1,500 in the lower box C. Watch them perform close for P4,500 for VIP sitting and standing. Lower Box B costs P3,500 and the Lower Box A costs P2,500.

Two rules have been implemented during the concert: Bringing and using of light sticks during the concert is not allowed. Why? In all One Ok Rock Concerts, it was never allowed to use them since the members wanted the fans and audience to enjoy and focus their attention on the concert itself. The second one was no photography during the concert proper.

Cheers could be heard once the One Ok Rock members came onstage; Tomoya Kanki - drummer, Toru Yamashita - guitarist, Ryota Kohama - guitarist and Takahiro Moriuchiare - front man whom commonly known and called by fans as Taka. Throughout the concert, the were attentively listening and watching them; to the point





that they sing with them. And of course, Taka would encourage audience participation as he let the crowd sing lines upon lines of several popular songs like the **Mighty Long Fall**, **Deeper Deeper**, **Wherever You Are** and **Cry Out**. People lit up their phones to serve as lightsticks during the song **Heartache**. It was indeed a wonderful sight: fans participating and singing with them.

Several people also could be seen wearing **One Ok Rock** T-shirts and beanie. Where did they get them? On the day of the concert! Official merchandise were also sold during the event.

Another fun part of the concert is that the audience get to pass around and bounce a big white ball with the logo of **One OK Rock** to each other while the band performs their last few songs. It added energy to the already hyped crowd.

The concert ended with smiles of satisfaction in the faces of everyone. They were truly happy with the concert plus the announcement of the band that they want come back and perform once again here in the Philippines.

The community of Japanese enthusiasts here in the Philippines is becoming bigger as the time goes by; the same with their different bands and idols that held concerts here every year. One of the best part is that they want to perform here in our country not only once because they saw that their Filipino fans community is huge and they also could see the excitement and fun to them when performing onstage. Another one is that we reunite and enjoy with our friends.

The atmosphere during the event is really great; not too crowded for the place to get hot plus you move freely and enjoy the event even if you are in the VIP Standing area. Another good thing is that the event ended with no negative report that occurred during the concert.

Congratulations to the everyone who attended for respecting the rules of OOR. For being attentive and responsive during the whole event. Now, fans were waiting for the announcement when will **One Ok Rock** have a concert here in the Philippines, hoping it will be soon; in hopes of hearing their favorite band perform live once again.



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Photo by: Fritz Tentavita



OTAKU LIFE HACKS

Senpai, please LIKE my photo entry~

Cosplay has become a popular hobby among the otaku in the Philippines. There are more cosplay events than in 2009 and we've started competing internationally. We've also observed a boost in cosplayers creating accounts and pages on Facebook for their cosplay. Many companies have taken note and have started holding Facebook like contests for cosplayers.

Our first and best example of this is the Cosplay Costume of the Year or CCY where participants may send their cosplay photos and be subjected to a public decision using Facebook likes to choose the finalists before going under a panel of esteemed judges.

This year, we were welcomed by a new contest sponsored by Japan Foundation Manila and Canon: Spinning Manila: Facebook Cosplay Photo Contest.

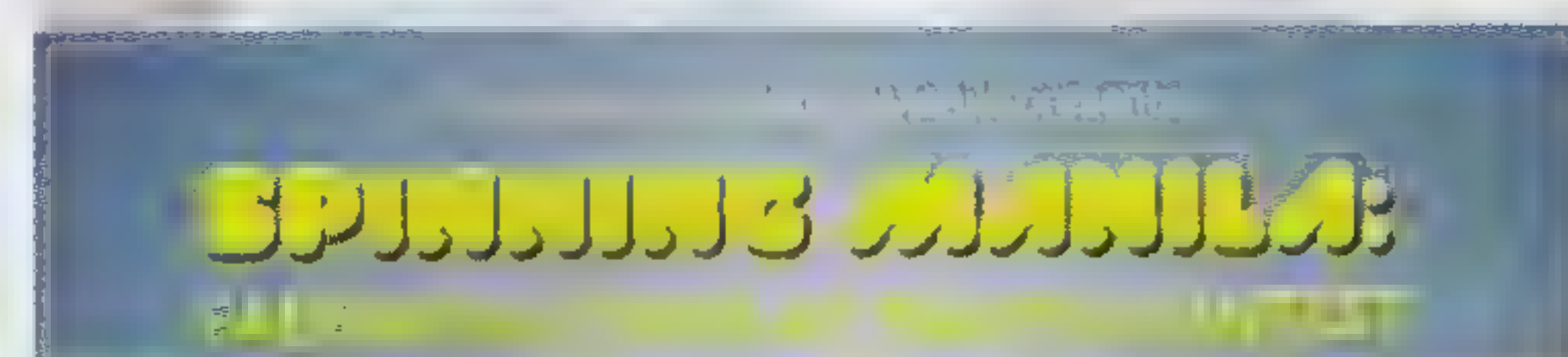
We'd like to stress that CCY contest is judged by the quality of their costume while the latter is judged for the cosplay as a whole.

Joining contests like these has become very popular and Otaku Asia would like to help you if you'd like to submit an entry in the future.

1. Read the rules intently

Every contest has their own set of rules and they exist for a reason. As a participant it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the rules and follow them. If you find yourself confused, it never hurts to ask for a clarification.

Make sure you have read and understood the rules before asking questions as your question may have already been answered in the document. There is nothing more annoying than having to repeat yourself so please don't make them repeat it for you.

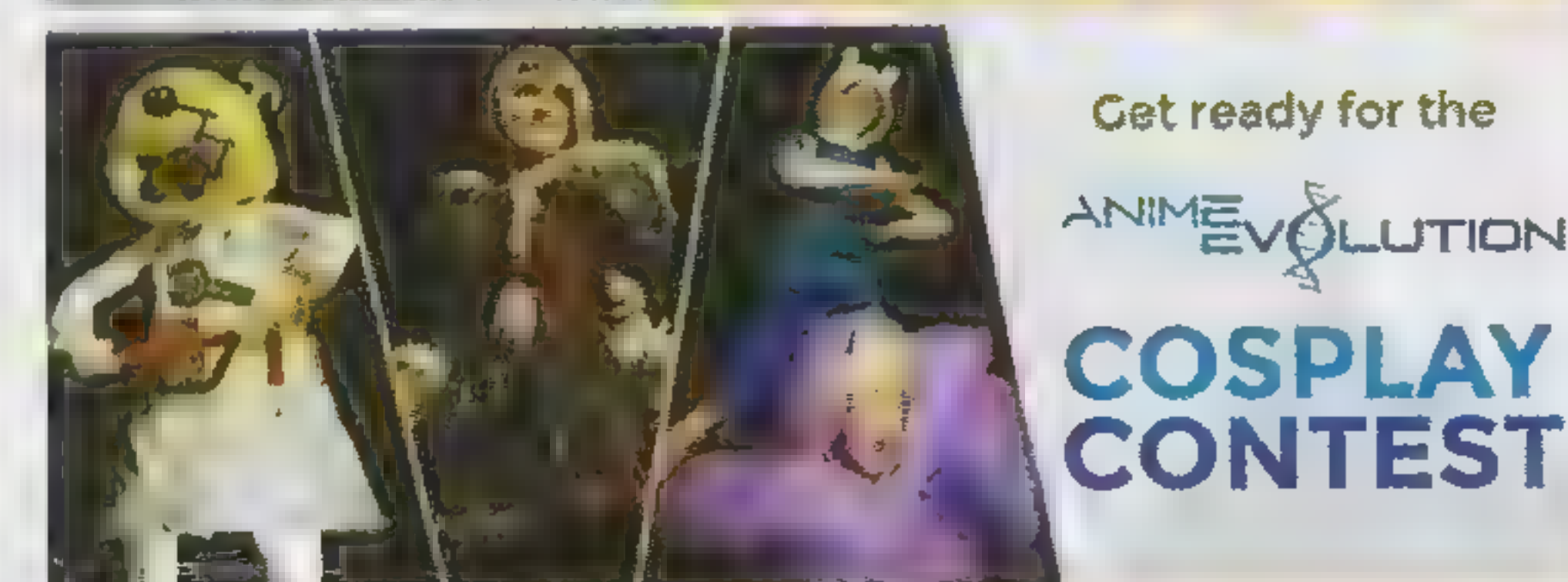


2. Choose your best

In any contest, you enter to win so you should definitely send your best photo.

We've noticed that some submissions are selfies or even cropped photos. While the rules may not have set restrictions on these and we are not against anyone, please refrain from using contests to push for your fame.

The organizers of these contests are taking every participant seriously. Enter a contest to see it to the end otherwise let other, more serious cosplayers get their chance.



3. Inform your photographer

It may be a silent rule that cosplayer should have a copy of their cosplay shots but it doesn't mean ownership. Even if the photographer is your friend, sibling, partner or was hired, it is good courtesy to inform them that their work will be used in a contest.

Some contests will claim ownership of the photos submitted and could pose a problem to your photographer. Please do not take it against your photographer if they disallow you to use their photos.

In some cases your photographer may even give you a better copy of the shot since this could also mean exposure for their brand.



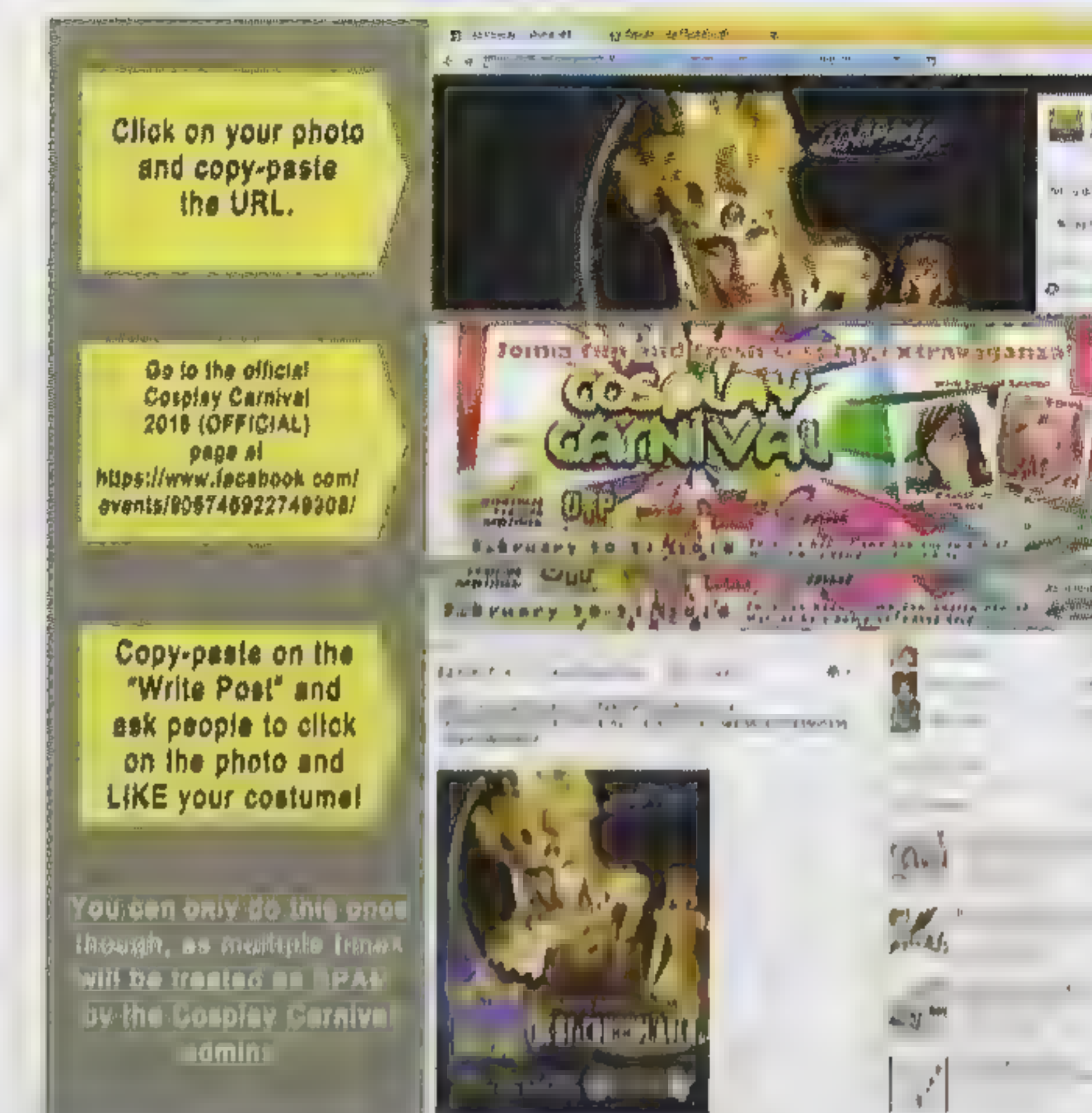
4. Go ahead and ask for likes

Since you are joining to win then self promotion will get you there. Haters will hate but commitment and effort wins.

Our team has our own experience in joining cosplay like contests and here is one way to boost your likes:

- Share your entry ONCE every day, tagging your friends and family.
- DELETE the shared post of the previous day so you wouldn't be spamming anyone's timeline.
- Remember to THANK your likers since now they are your supporters!

We did this ourselves since there were no such restriction on the rules. If the contest does not allow this, please change strategy.



5. Respect other contestants

Love wins and nothing good will come out of bashing other contestants who are gaining more likes than you. You're not the only one who want to win.

What you can possibly do is to focus on your own entry and keep on working on yourself. See if your photographer could endorse you, etc.

Be a good sport.

Looking back, we remember Otaku House and earlier attempts by smaller companies and communities. All of them has one common end goal: to promote cosplay for everyone.

Whether you believe on it or not, it is a fact that anyone can don a costume. However, it is also a fact that cosplay includes 'emulating a character' therefore lack of knowledge of the costume could lead to unwanted judgements from the community (which you cannot avoid these days).

What matters most is that you enjoy what you are doing and LET OTHERS ENJOY AS WELL.

Let us close the article with a quote in the words of Princess Bubblegum (Adventure Time), "People get built different. We don't need to figure it out, we just need to respect it."



A new star is on air!
He rises to fame as
he bags one of the
**Best New Actor
Award** in the **9th
Annual Seiyū
Awards!** Meet
Natsuki Hanae, the
voice behind **Kōsei
Arima** in *Your Lie in
April*, **Kaizuki Inaho**
of *Aldnoah Zero*,
and **Kaneki Ken** of
Tokyo Ghoul.



ON AIR

Soaring Up High:
NATSUKI HANAE

Born in the Kanagawa Prefecture on June 26, 1991, Hanae had already figured that he'd rather use his voice than go to university. He was first inspired to be a seiyuu after watching *Ouran High School Host Club*. With the love of karaoke, he wanted to put his great voice to good use. Truly, this talent has paved the way for his career and all he had to do was submit his voice sample to Across Entertainment, which he is affiliated with up to this day. That voice sample later earned him the title of seiyuu in 2011.



Typically voicing characters of the quiet shonen-type, he took roles in varying genres of animé series, films, and video games. These characters would range from being softspoken and gentle to mysterious and manic.

His voice is music to the ears of fans all over the world!



For films, he's voiced as **Jaco the Galactic Patrolman** for *Dragon Ball Z: Resurrection 'F'* and as **Taichi Yagami** of *Digimon Adventure tri.* Voicing again as **Jaco** and **Time Patroller**, he made his voice appearance in the video game, "*Dragon Ball XenoVerse*." Also in video game, he voiced as **Nova** in "*AMNESIA World*" and **Ziggs** in "*League of Legends*."

On the other hand, his karaoke passion does not go to waste as it gives him an edge when it comes to making collaborations with bands and even in singing opening and ending theme songs of animé series such as for *Ace of Diamond*, *Makura no Danshi*, and *STARMYU*.

Currently, at the age of 24, this young blood is out to make a mark in the Japanese animé industry. Jump up to the bandwagon and watch Natsuki Hanae soar his way to the top with his darling voice!

It takes a skilled and experienced seiyuu to bring an anime character to life. That doesn't mean, however, that newcomers in the voice acting scene can't perform the same vivifying feats, and this particular seiyuu is proof of that. In fact, despite being young and having only three years' worth of voice acting experience, which is considered as a short amount of time in the voice acting industry, she has already landed iconic lead roles – definitely not half-bad for a budding seiyuu like her. We're talking about no other than Sora Amamiya.

As early as sophomore high school, Sora Amamiya wanted to be a voice actress upon seeing a video collection of roles played by voice actress Miyuki Sawashiro, who lent her voice to well-known characters such as Kurapika from Hunter X Hunter and Celty Sturluson from Durarara!! Inspired by her idol, Amamiya and her friends Momo Asakura and Shiina Natsukawa was able to pass an audition that was organized by Music Ra'yn in 2011, they were already able to debut as voice actresses the following year.

Sora Amamiya

Although her voice acting career started in 2012, she had her first major role in 2014 as **Kaori Fujimiya** of **One Week Friends**. After her successful first lead role as a cute, fragile, and warmhearted girl whose memory gets wiped clean every week, she has moved on to fill equally large and popular anime girl shoes such as:



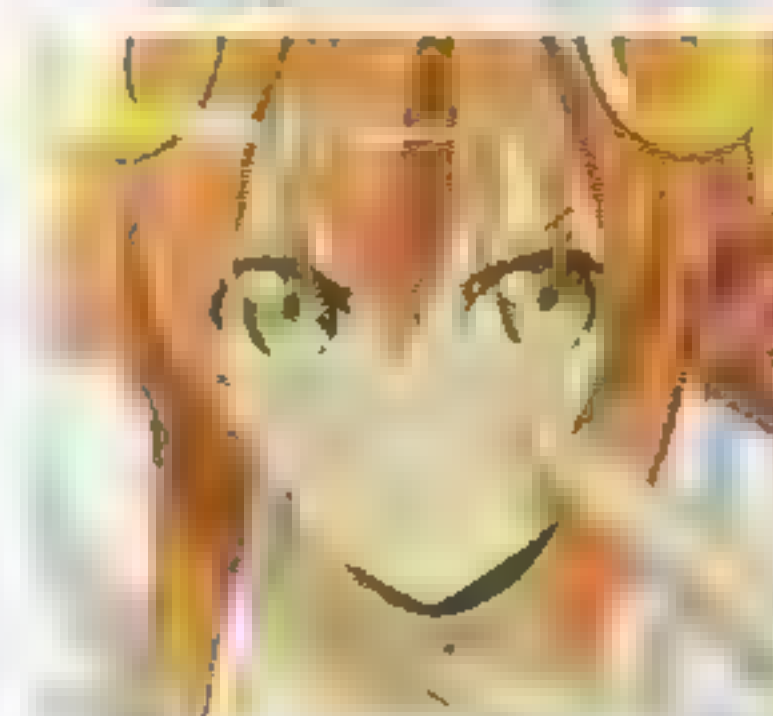
Akame
of **Akame Ga Kill**
the seemingly cold and calculating leader of the assassin group Night Raid.



Touka Kirishima
of **Tokyo Ghoul Seasons 1 and 2**
student by day, barista for the coffee shop Anteiku later during the day, and flesh-eating ghoul at night.



Asseylum Vers Allusia
of **Aldnoah.Zero**
the beautiful princess of the Holy Vers Empire, she is concerned with the betterment of both the welfare and the relations between Mars and Earth.



Miia
of **Monster Musume**
a nice lamia girl who cohabitates with Kimihito Kurusu, she is the first to be part of Kimihito Kurusu's half-human harem.



Isla
of **Plastic Memories**
a giftia, who happens to be the partner of Tsukasa Mizugaki, the story's male lead. Together they work for SAI corporation.

Considering her impressive yet short folio, she received the **Best New Actress** award at the **9th Seiyuu Awards** in March 2015 – an honor that she deserves. And aside from her voice acting career, which has allowed her to gain much recognition, she has also flourished in the field of music. Aside from her singing Akame Ga Kill's opening theme Skyreach, she then joined her friends Momo Asakura and Shiina Natsukawa and formed the music trio **Trysail**, whose first – and hopefully not only – release is "Youthful Dreamer", which is the opening theme of Ultimate Otaku Teacher.

With a career in both music and voice acting, it's not so surprising that we'd be listening to Sora Amamiya many more times for many more years to come. That's definitely good to hear.



SEIYU AWARDS 声優アワード

Now on it's tenth year, the Seiyu Awards Executive Committee is once again holding the Seiyu Awards. Together with co-hosts, Ltd. KADOKAWA, Ltd. Nippon Cultural Broadcasting, Co., Shogakukan, Inc. Shogakukan Shueisha Productions and Ah image Ltd.

The voting period was last October 1 to November 30, 2015. The awarding is held on March 12, 2016.

Elected by popular vote



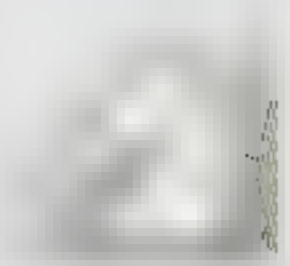
Best Actor, Actress

Voice actor that has been active as starring in the work that has been published during the period.



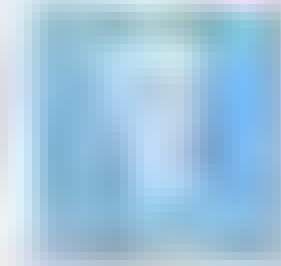
Singing Award

Voice actor, which has included the singing in character and credited the voice actor own name or play.



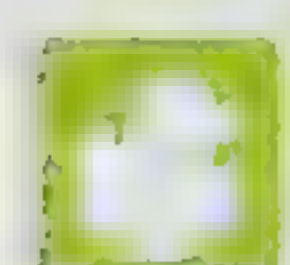
Best Supporting Actor, Actress

Voice actor that has been working as a supporting actor in the work that has been published during the period.



Personality Award

Voice actor with appearances in radio, web radio, TV in character and as a personality.



Rookie actor, actress

Voice actor who is a newcomer last five years with work that has been published during the period.



Most Votes Award

Popular vote regardless of the award category in, voice actor who attracted the most number of votes.

Special Award, Selected by committee



Lifetime Achievement Award



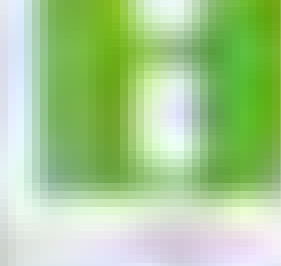
Kazue Takahashi Award

Kikuko Inoue
[Ah! My Goddess (Belldandy)]



Achievement Award

Sachiko Chijimatsu, Tadashi Nakamura and Michiko Nomura

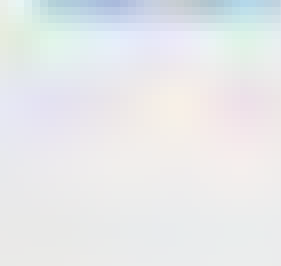


Children's Family Award



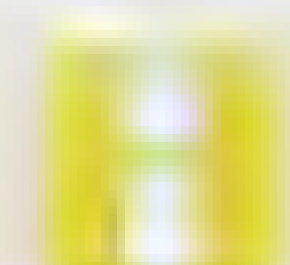
Synergy Award

Chibi Maruko-chan
TARAKO



Seiyu Awards Special Award

A/P members: Komori Misae,
Shimizukawa Saki, Tomoe Kei,
Sakurana Risa, Ogino Saori, Hirose Yuuki.



Toyama Keisho

Morikubo Shotaro
[NARUTO (Shikamaru Nara)]

We have included winners announced on Feb 16.

Awarding has not yet taken place as of time of publication but Otaku Asia congratulates all winners and awardees.

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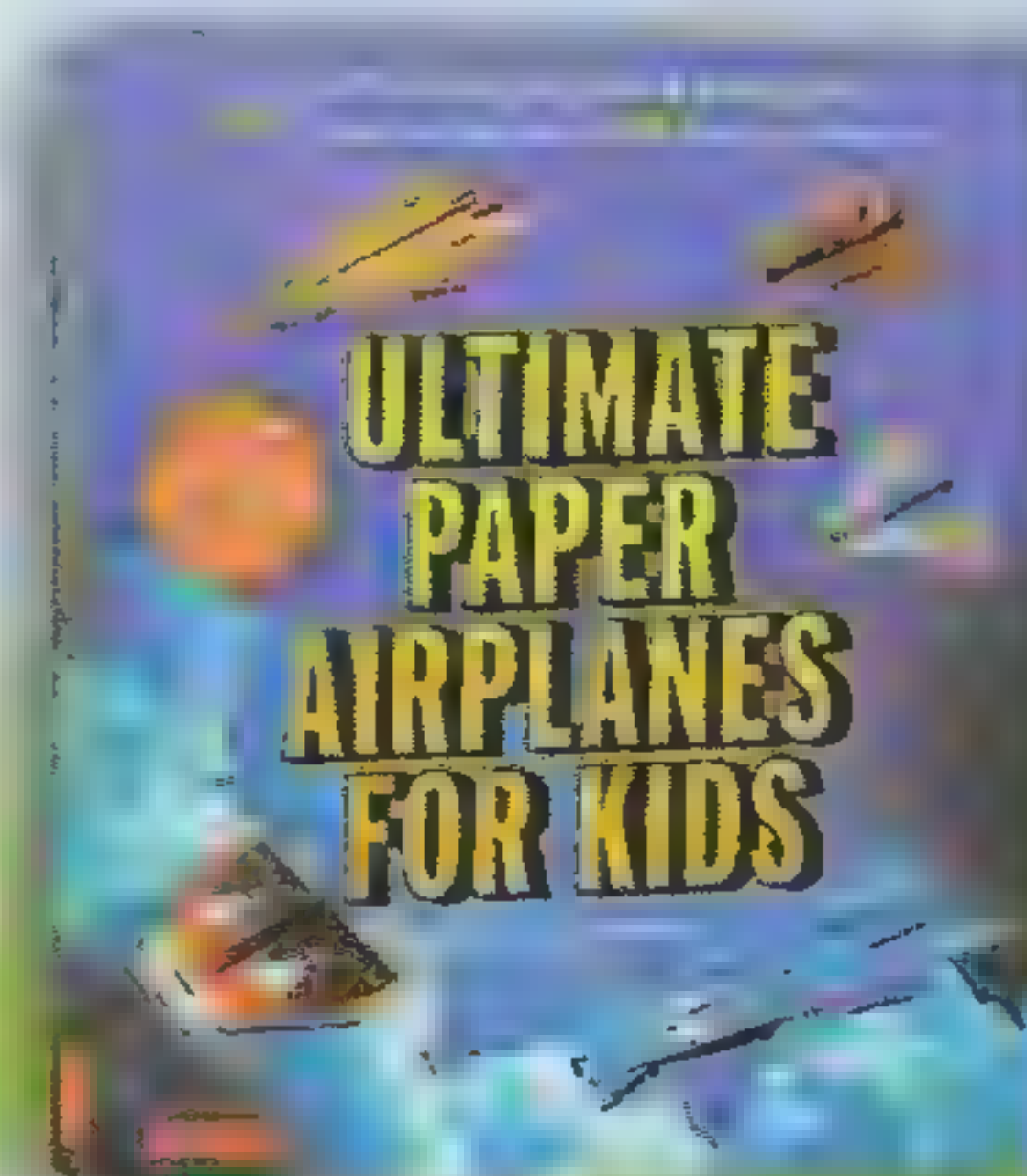
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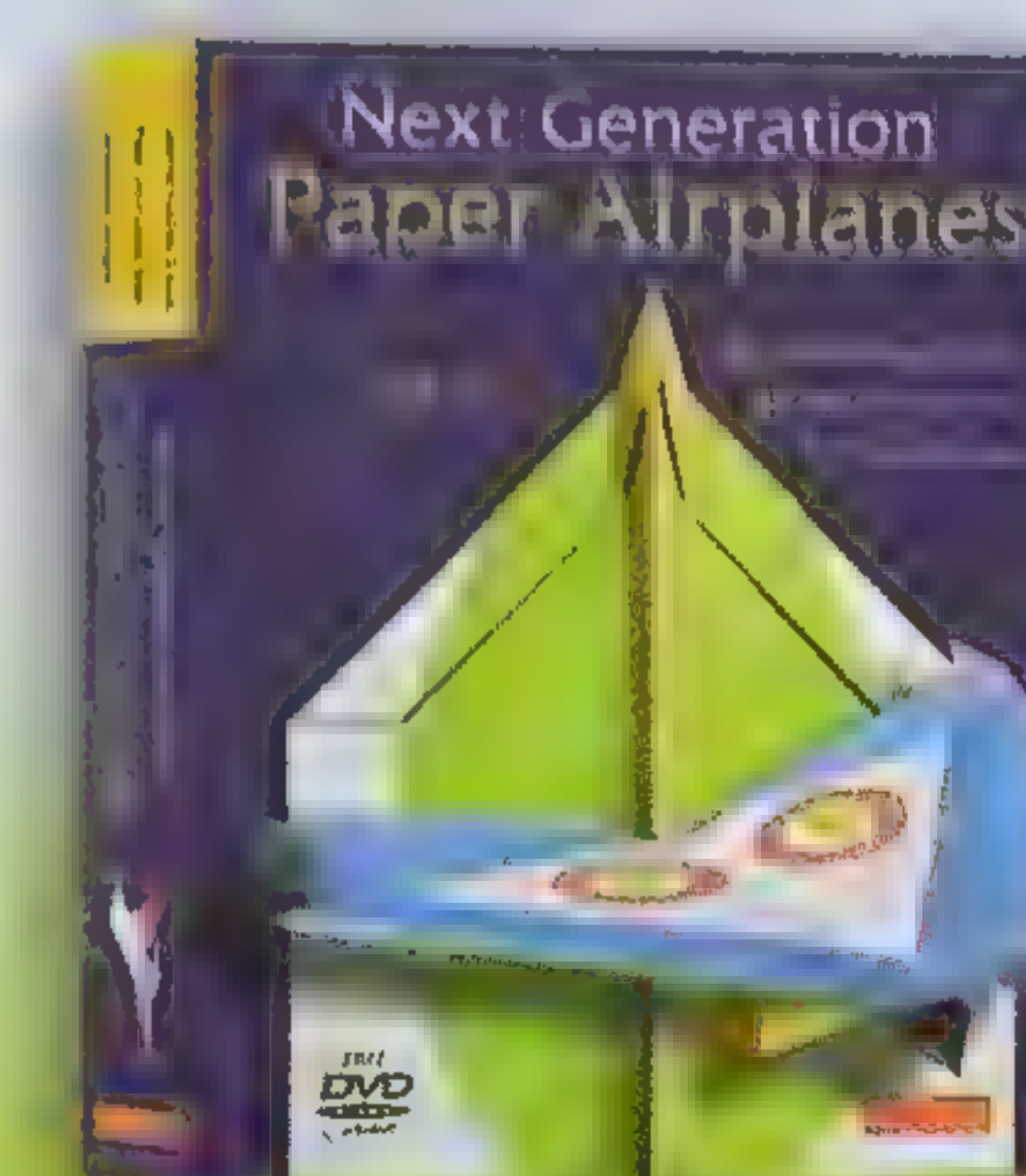
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Winter Toy Treat

by Ann

Wonder Festival
2016 [Winter]

2016.2.7
幕張メッセ 1~8ホール



Illustrator: ROUTE12
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Falling in love sometimes means wanting to be with someone...or maybe something. For fans of anime series or games and its characters, this impulse to be able to see their idols all the time can be satisfied by one of the simplest ways — getting them in sculptures. For one's eyes only, these uniquely detailed mini sculptures are called garage kits. Each crafted with passion, these kits are not generally mass produced, so finding them can be a tough buy. Still, the largest festival of this kind unites makers and buyers, and that's through the Tokyo Wonder Festival!

The Tokyo Wonder Festival, being a semi-annual event happening every February and August, started 2016 right when it opened in the Makuhari Messe, in Chiba, Japan on February 7. This winter event celebrates not only the works of amateur and professional artisans in the Wonder Showcase, but also that of major toy companies. Let's take a look at the ones who were under the spotlight on that special day.



At the left is Wonda-chan, one of the mascots of Wonder Festival, and behind its new look is the collaboration of Kaiyodo and Good Smile Company. "Wonda-chan Next Door Project" is based on the perspectives of different artists, one of which is from FILE:01 Route 12 Version. Fans would well remember how Kiyohiko Azuma, creator of Azumanga Daioh and Yotsuba&!, illustrated Wonder Festival mascots Wonda-chan and Reset-chan after Keinojou Mizutama, their original illustrator, passed away in 2014.



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Good Smile Company also placed on display Nendoroid of Vocaloid 2 Snow Miku Snow Owl Version of Hatsune Miku; game and anime PriPara's Nendoroid Co-de Bunny Magician Co-de, Bright Green Bunny Magician Co-de, and Bunny Magician Royal Co-de; and Nendoroid More: Dress-up Wedding. This company's also distributing some of Max Factory's goodies such as Figma Snow Miku Snow Owl Version, and Miho Nishizumi, Yukari Akiyama, Saori Takebe, Hana Isuzu and Mako Reizei of the Ankou Team of the anime series Girls und Panzer In Figma Action Figure Sets as well as their tank: Vehicles: Panzer IV Ausf. D "H-Spec."



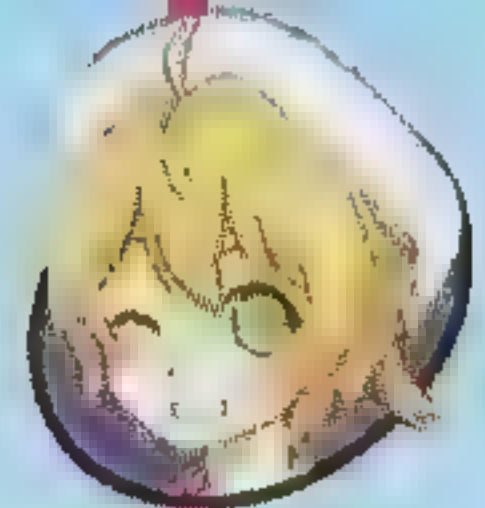
On the other hand, Phat! Company boasted its release of RPG "Granblue Fantasy" Medicchu Lyria & Jita Idol Version Set. Other eye candy plastics included Danjon ni Deai o Motomeru no wa Machigatteiru Daro ka or DanMachi's Hestia and Fate/stay night [Unlimited Blade Works]'s Sakura Matou by Medicom Toy.



Cospla celebrated their 20th anniversary with jackets of Evangelion and The Prince of Darkness.

The company makes merchandise for many popular anime including Steins Gate, Sword Art Online and Schwarzesmarken.

Cosplayers also graced the event to even out the winter bliss of hobbyists all over the world. The event served like a post-Christmas sale as everyone sure felt like they were getting wonder-filled and wonderful gifts for their love of these characters.



J-IDOL ONE MORE TIME...

Let's Make Everyone's Dreams Come True!

article by: Robert Lim



ラブライブ!
School idol project
サンシャイン!!

Anyone with a passing knowledge of the current anime scene would know what "Love Live" and "U's" are. The group of 9 school idols and their tale of overcoming trials to become one of the hottest and most successful idol phenomenon, both in and out of real life, has surely inspired a lot of us. Alas, all good things must come to an end.

Fear not, it's not the end for the franchise. Out of the shadows of U's comes a new group ready to follow their legendary predecessor's footsteps. Please ready the stage for the next generation: Aquors! Inspired by the famous school idol group μ's before them, nine high school girls, **Takami Chika, Sakurauchi Riko, Matsuura Kanan, Kurosawa Dia, Watanabe You, Tsushima Yoshiko, Kunikida Hanamaru, Ohara Mari, and Kurosawa Ruby**, form their own idol group called Aquors in order to save their school from closing.

On February of 2015, Dengeki G's Magazine has unveiled a new image featuring a lone girl with the title "Love Live Sunshine". The following months began revealing introductions and teasers as new characters got added, along with their respective seiyuu. In a move that encouraged fan participation, the fans were given the reins over the group's fate. A poll was held which would decide the name of this new group. With over 4,000 votes, the name "Aquors" (pronounced "Aqua") won, giving birth to the eventual name.



Kimi no Kokoro wa Kagayaiteru kai?

Ima mirai kaete
mitaku natta yo
Datte bokutachi wa
mada yume ni
kidzuita bakari

Kikkake wa nan
demo iikara
Issho ni tokimeki o
sagasou yo
(Wasshoi tokimeki
alright)

Hontou ni nozomu
koto nara
Kanaunda to
shoumei shite
miru nda
Chippokena jibun ga
doko etobidaseru
ka na

Wakaranai wakaranai
mama de
(Nantoka naru Sato)
a~a hajimeyou

Kimi no kokoro wa
kagayaiteru kai
Mune ni kiitara YES
to kotaerusa
Kono deai ga minna
o kaeru ka na
Kyou mo taiyou wa
terashi teru bokura
no yume

**Oh YES DOKIDOKI
Sunshine
Oh YES DOKIDOKI
Sunshine**

Aquors wasted no time in getting the show started. Just like U's, they introduced themselves to the music world through animated music videos. Their first single, "Kimi no Kokoro wa Kagayaiteru kai?", went on sale last October. Lantis Channel proceeded to publish the music video this January, and within a week, the video has garnered around 300,000 views already. A second single would be released this April. Things are looking up for the group, especially with the announcement of an anime series this 2016.

Carrying the torch that has been passed down from such a successful predecessor would be no easy task, but these girls would do it. Watch Aquors pave the way for the next generation of Love Live!

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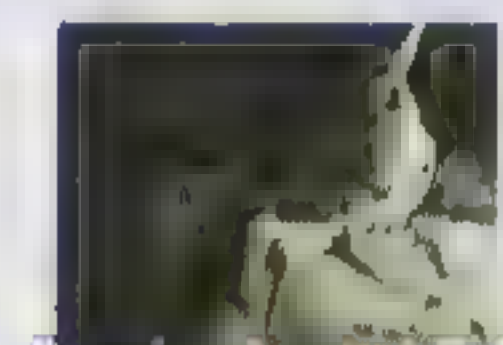
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After Fairy Tail's encounter and battle with the Tartaros Guild, the guild disbanded and its members parted ways. Happy and Natsu Dragneel decided to train together and decided to visit Tenrou Island: where lies the grave of Mavis Vermillion: the founder of Fairy Tail Guild.

Do Fairies Exist?

article by Yani

More than a hundred years ago on Tenrou Island, a 6 year old Mavis worked for the Red Lizard guild since her parents died. As a child, she loves reading fairy stories after working or whenever she has the time. One day, another guild attacked leaving no one alive except for Mavis and another 6 year old, Zera. For seven years, they were the only human inhabitants in the island until three treasure hunters namely Yuri Dreyar, Precht Gaelbolg and Warrod Sequen came into the island to pilfer



the island's relic, Tenrou Jade. When they found out that the Jade has already been stolen by Blue Skull guild, Mavis and Zera joined with them on their quest in retrieving Tenrou Jade.



Fairy Tail Zero is a Japanese manga series written by Hiro Mashima and published by Kodansha. The manga ran from July 17, 2014 up to July 17, 2015. The manga had a total of 13 chapters (1 volume). It was announced in the last quarter of 2015 that Fairy Tail Zero will have an anime adaptation as a filler arc in the current Fairy Tail series. The Fairy Tail Zero Arc started on episode 266 last January 9, 2016. The opening theme for the Fairy Tail Zero arc was performed by Kavka Shishido entitled "Ashita wo Narase". The ending theme was performed by SOLIDEMO entitled: Landscape.

CHARACTERS:

Mavis Vermilion

Voiced by: Mamiko Noto

Magic: Fairy Glitter, Fairy Sphere, Fairy Law, Illusion Magic, Black Arts, Ankhseram Black Magic

She was one who decided to create the Fairy Tail Guild. She lived in Tenrou Island where the Red Lizard Guild resides during her childhood. As a kid, she is fond of fairies and refuses to cry because she believed the fairies won't show up if you do. She also prefers to go on barefoot. Mavis is known to be a great tactician that led Fairy Tail into many victories.



Zera

Voiced by: Kana Hanazawa

Magic: Fire Magic

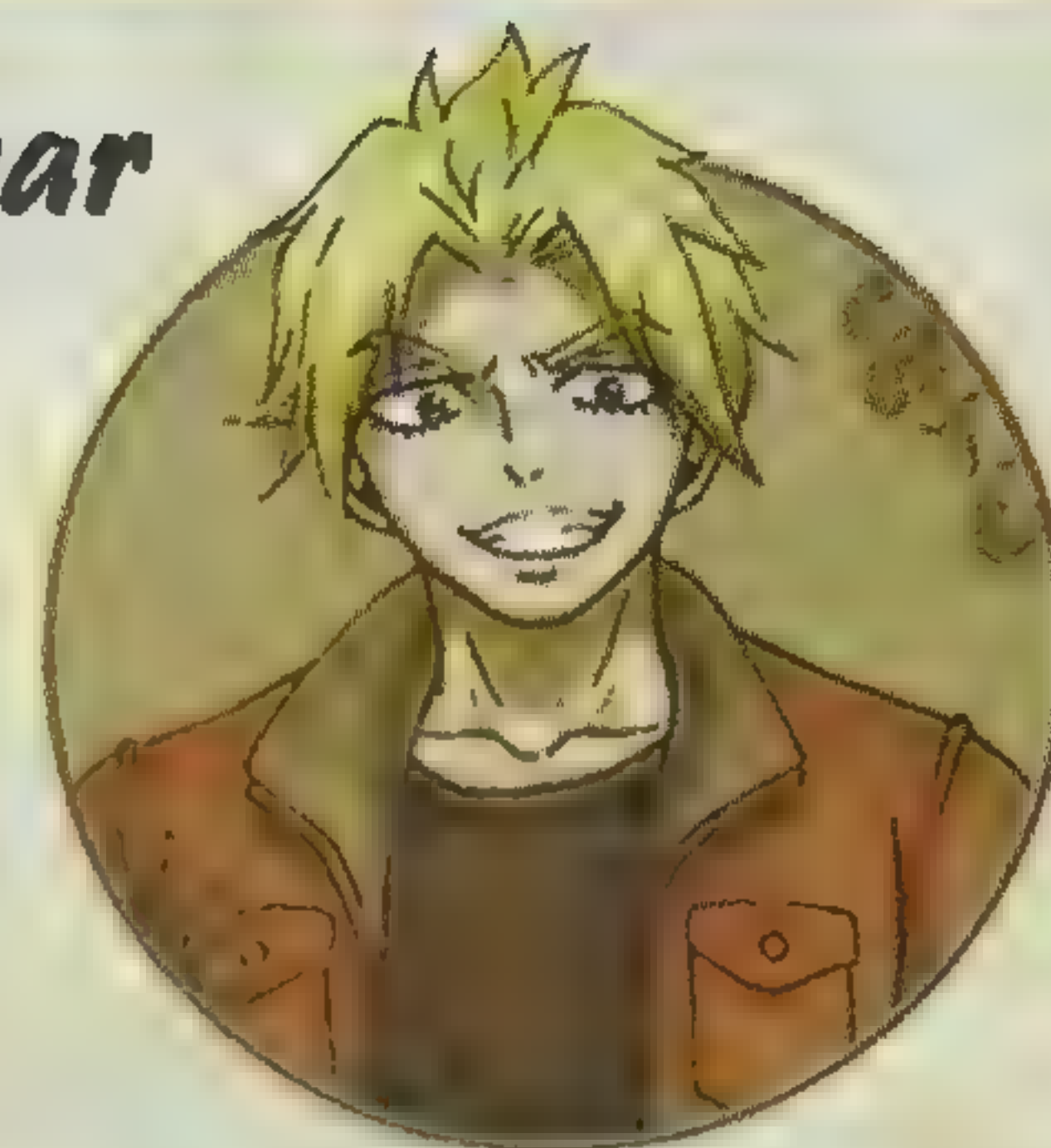
She is the daughter of Red Lizard's Guild Master. She and Mavis became close friends after the attack on Tenrou island. As a kid, she has bubbly and mean personality among her classmates and to Mavis. After the Blue Skull's attack to her homeland, Zera developed a shy personality due to lack of interaction with people aside from Mavis.

Yuri Dreyar

Voiced by: Katsuyuki Konishi

Magic: Lightning Magic

He is the father of the Makarov Dreyar: the third Guild Master of Fairy Tail. He is a treasure hunter who wants to claim the Sirius Jade: Sirius Island's treasure. At first, he is a greedy and selfish treasure hunter until he met Mavis. He is also the one who revealed the truth behind Zera...



Precht Gaebolg

Voiced by: Yoshihisa Kawahara

Magic: Amaterasu, Chain Magic, Black Arts, Bullet Magic, Eye Magic (Demon's Eye), Grimoire Law, Katsu, Living Magic, Magic Alteration, Requip

One of Yuri's treasure hunter companions and he became the second Fairy Tail Guild Master. He is also a skilled fighter who wields retractable blade-tipped chain weapons. He is currently known as Hades: the guild Master of Grimoire Heart, a dark Guild.



Warrod Sequen

Voiced by: Hiroshi Shirokuma

Magic: Green Magic

He is also one of Yuri's treasure hunter companions in search of the Tenrou Jade. Upon meeting Mavis, he has a calm personality contrast to the personality that we know: makes jokes around people. He is currently on of the 10 Wizard Saints and a member of the Magic Council.



Zeref

Voiced by: Akira Ishida

Strongest and possesses the Ankhseram Black Magic. Mavis being naturally knowledgeable and friendly befriends him and in turn, he teaches the Fairy Tail guild founders several magics before leaving.



GUILDS FEATURED:

Fairy Tail



Location: Magnolia

Guild Master: Mavis Vermillion (First)
Makarov Dreyar (Present)

Fairy Tail has been one of the known guilds at the kingdom of Fiore. In contrast to what people believe upon joining the guild; all you need is the approval of the Guild master regardless of your power, skills and your previous affiliation.

It is believed that the founder was a fairy. It was later revealed that the founder was Mavis Vermillion. The name was given and decided by herself. When she was asked why this name she explained that fairies don't have tails and do fairies even exist. Like them, this place is a full of mystery and a never ending adventure.

Red Lizard

Location: Tenrou Island

Guild Master: Zeeself

The guild was destroyed and everyone died alongside with the residents of the Tenrou island after the attack of Blue Skull in the island. Mavis and Zera were the only survivors.



Blue Skull

Location: Magnolia

Guild Master: Geoffrey

They've successfully attacked and killed the members of the Red Lizard Guild during the guild wars. They also managed to steal the Tenrou's Island holy relic: the Tenrou Jade.



We all know that Fairy Tail is a great and powerful guild. Not only for their members and powers but also because of their founder: Mavis Vermillion. Mavis wanted the Fairy Tail to be a guild full of adventure, mysteries and fate. In this arc, we would get to know about her and how she decided to build Fairy Tail. Fairies were the core of everything; her love for it and her dream to meet them. If she did not decide to leave the island then she would not experience the adventures she had plus she also get to have new friends: the treasure hunters. She wouldn't also get to meet Zeref; the one who taught them to use magic.



If you didn't read the manga, you won't notice that there are filler scenes in the anime. These scenes happened in between of two canon events in the manga. Another thing that makes this arc worth to watch is that we get to see Mavis as kid and she's too cute and how she handles and sees things for her very young age which is mature and amazing for her age. Let's follow Mavis, Zera, Yuri, Precht and Warrod with their adventures in finding Tenrou Jade, discovering truth and learning magic in Fairy Tail Zero.



CHARACTER BIO

Title: Fairy Tactician
 Race: Human
 Age: Biologically 13 but chronologically 118
 Birthday: X673
 Guild: Fairy Tail
 Position: First Master and Founder
 CV: Mamiko Noto

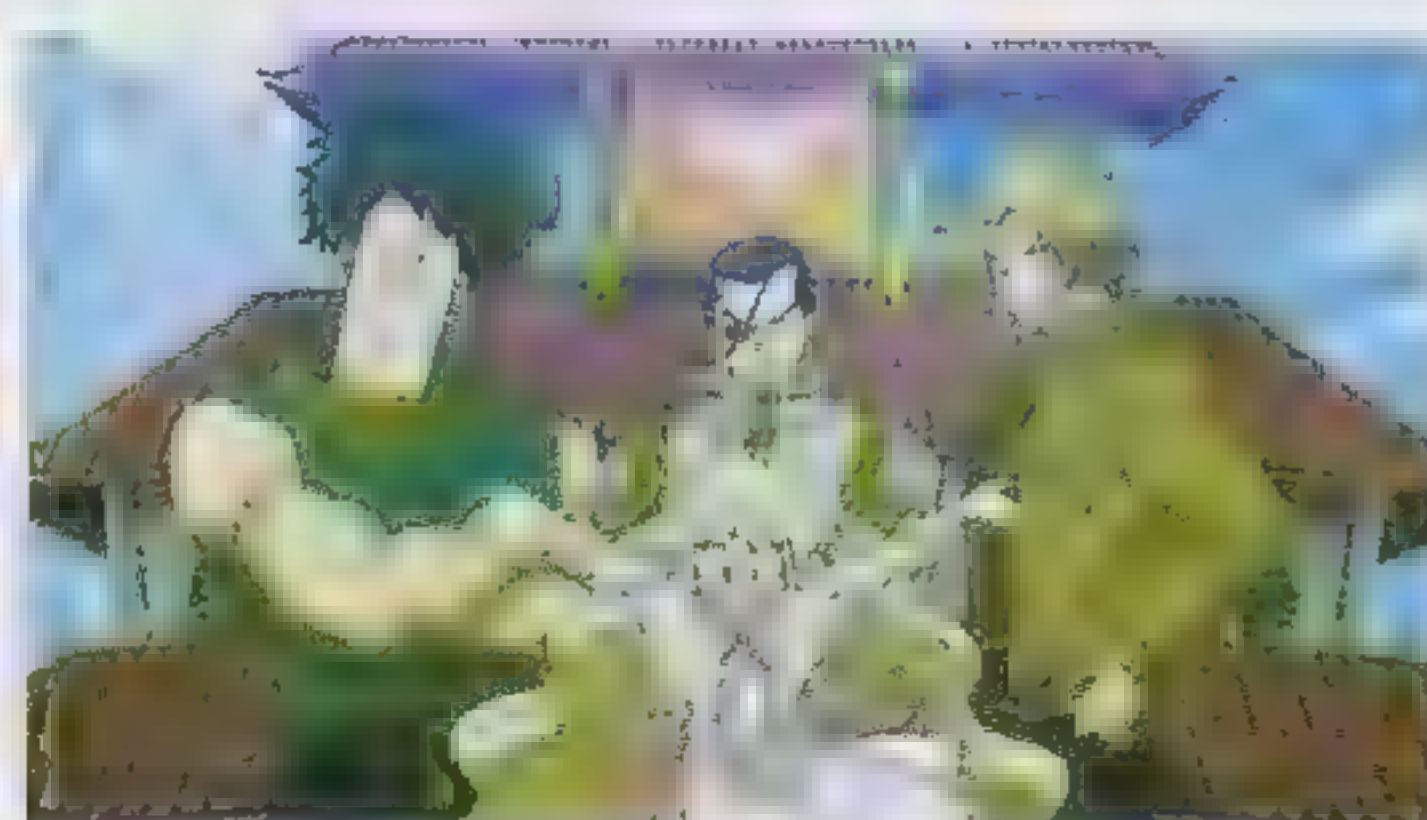
MAVIS VERMILION

Mavis Vermillion is the very first guild master of Fairy Tail and is also one of the co-founders of the infamous guild. She is the childish yet overprotective mother figure of the guild.

Her brilliance earned her much fame throughout the magic world and is hailed as the Fairy Tactician as she led the guild through countless victories with the use of her impeccable skills and ingenious strategies during her reign as the guild master.

Mavis' body is unable to grow due to using an incomplete **Fairy Law** in the past where her body didn't withstand the strains brought by the spell. She interacts with others using an ethereal body which only members of the guild could see, while her main body is currently in a comatose state sealed within the Lacrima called the **Fairy Heart**.

Due to her playful and innocent nature, she constantly hangs around the members of the guild and appears whenever and wherever she desires as soon as she senses that something interesting is happening which bring constant stress to Makarov.



"There is a wall that can't be destroyed with just power. However, there is a type of power that can destroy that wall. The Power of Feelings."
 -Mavis

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MOVIE REEL

影時間、終ワル。



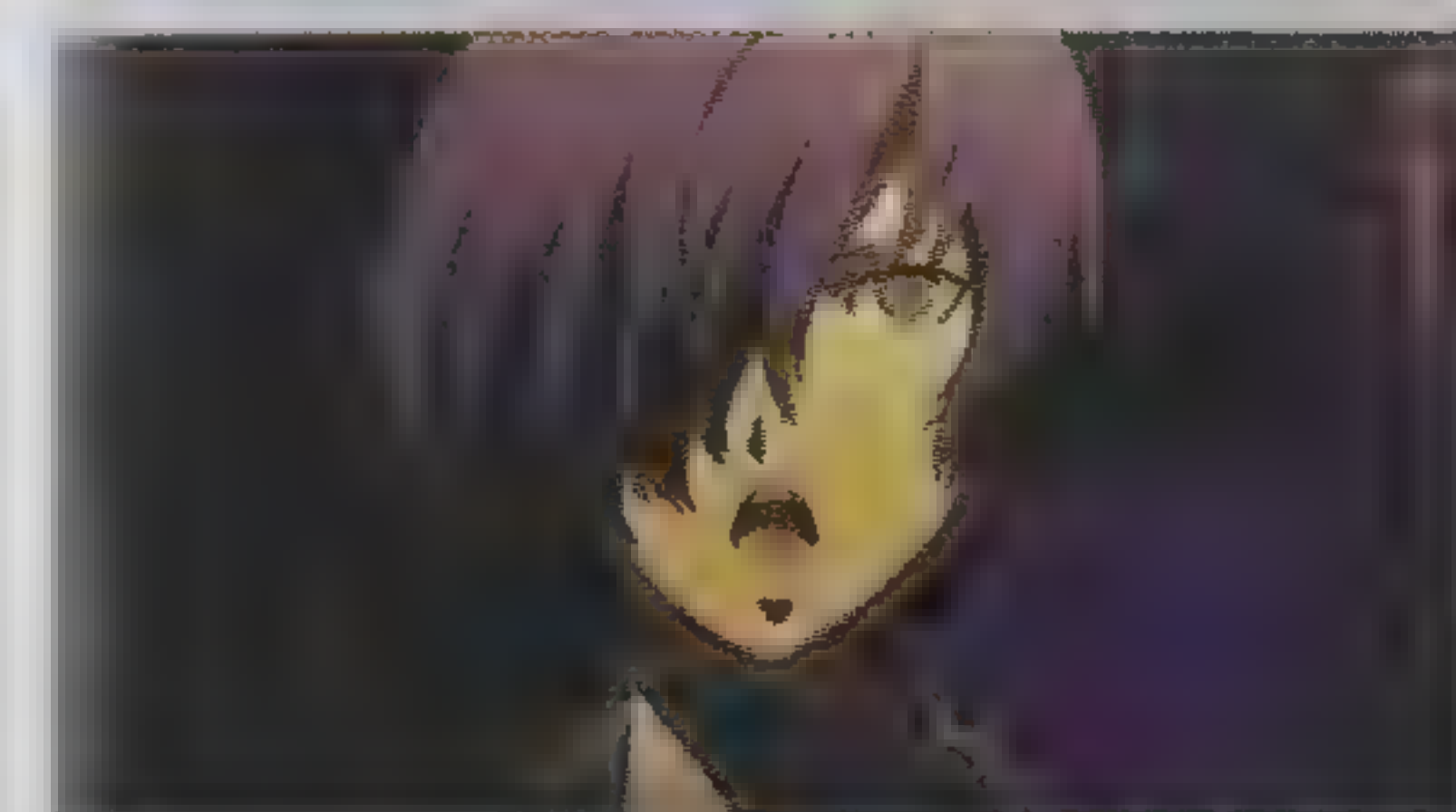
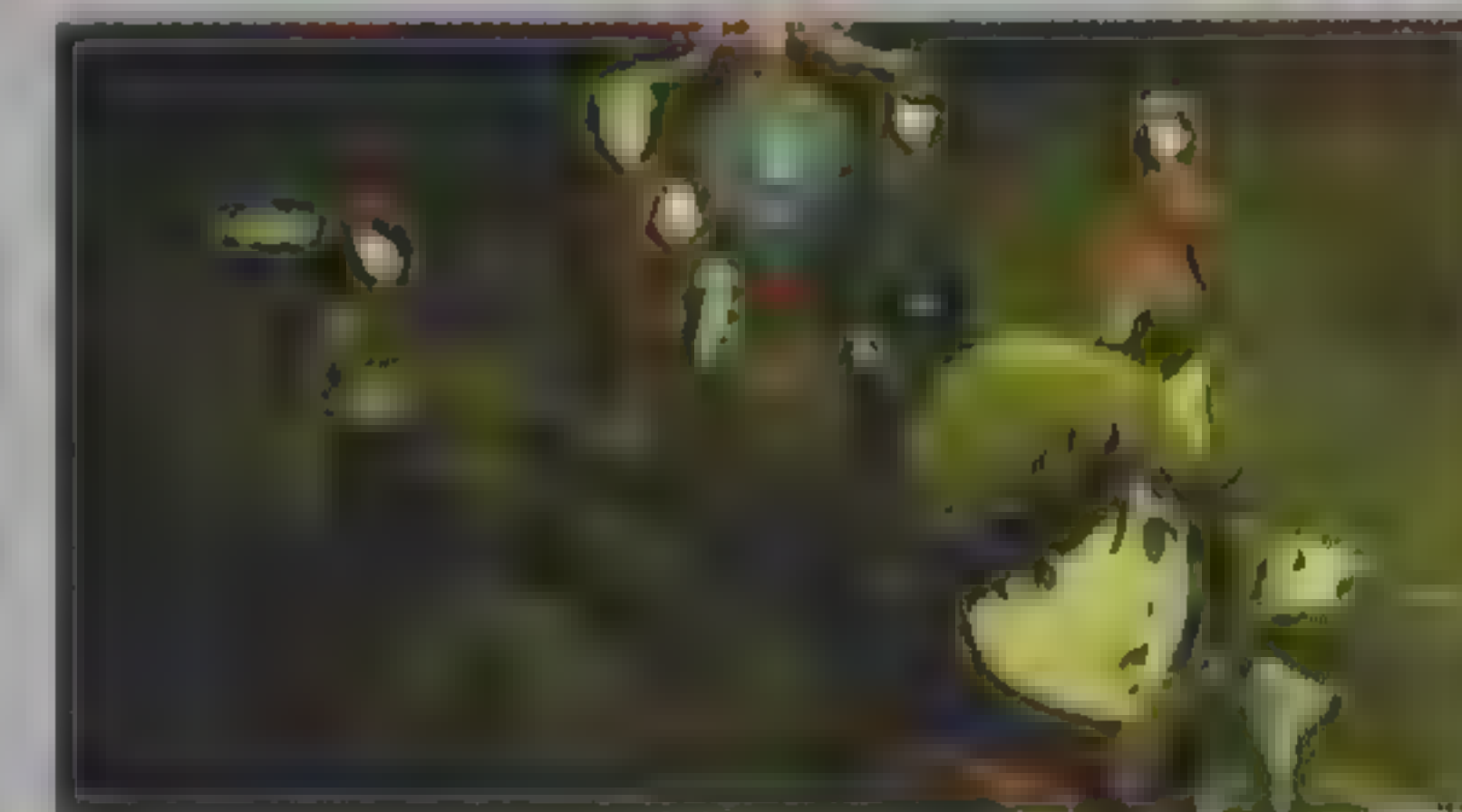
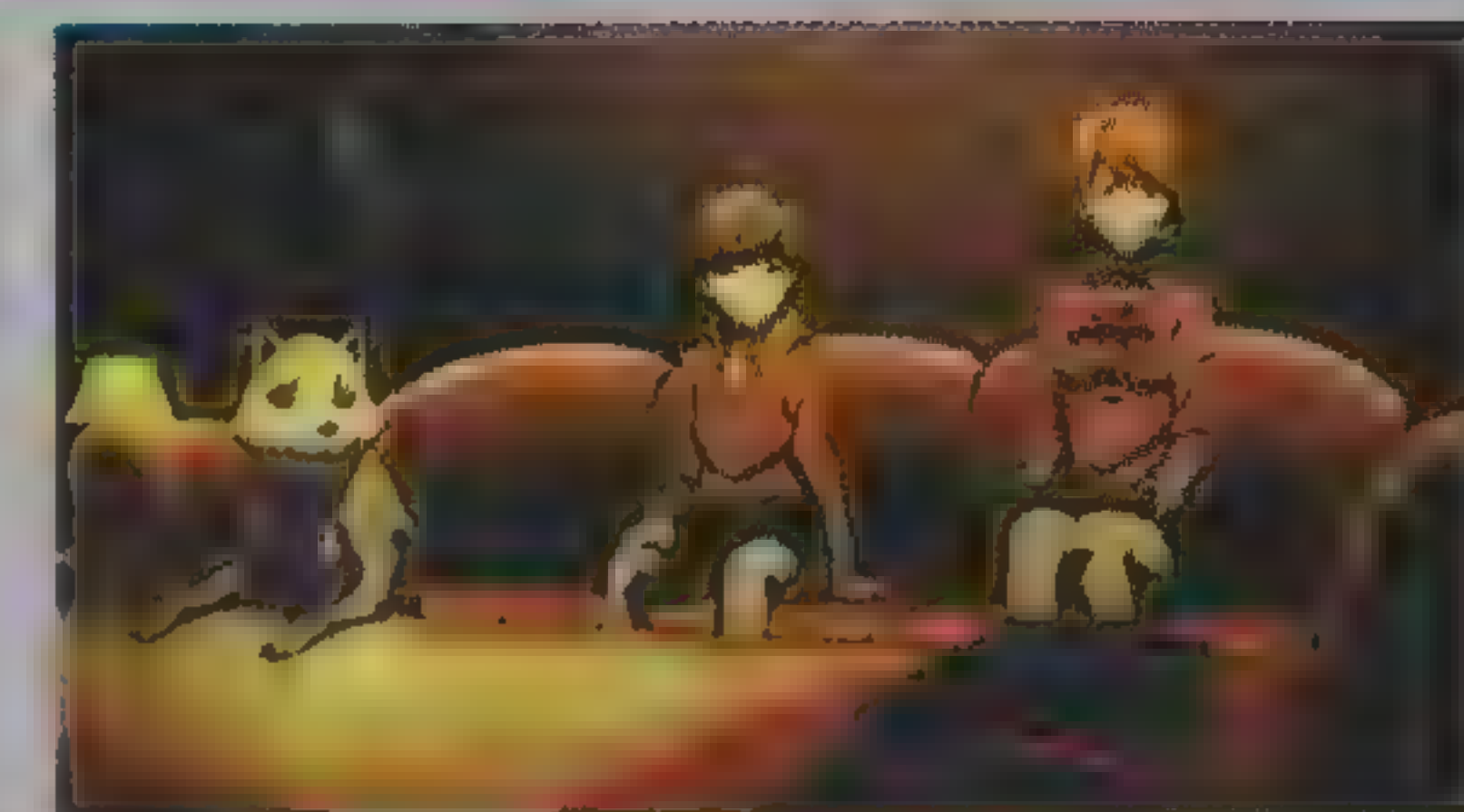
The clock strikes midnight and ushers in the Dark Hour, when time stands still and humans turn into coffins. Shadows, monsters from the netherworld populate Tartarus, a mysterious tower which appears only at this hidden point in time. Armed with gun-shaped "evokers", only those with the potential know of this phenomenon and fight to protect people from the Shadows. Yet, their greatest gift is not this... their greatest gift, symbolized by their manner of fighting, is the ability to know, gaze at, or even face death.

MEMENTO MORI

article by: Robert Lim

Persona 3: Winter of Rebirth is the fourth and final movie of the Persona 3 movie series. It continues the journey of Makoto Yuki and the rest of SEES as they uncover the mystery of the Dark Hour, Tartarus, and the Shadows. The story picks up where the last movie ends: the fateful night on December where the android Aigis recovers her lost memories and confronts mysterious transfer student Ryoji Mochizuki. Their battle leaves Aigis heavily damaged and prompts Ryoji to reveal his true identity as the avatar of death. With the major Shadows all defeated, SEES is faced with one final obstacle, who is arguably the greatest of them all.

The true face of death incarnate is finally revealed and leaves Makoto with one final and greatest decision. Despite having faced and overcome losses throughout the story, would SEES dare face off against an opponent that's far greater than anything they have fought so far? What doesn't kill you makes you stronger, but will the combined power of bonds be able to overcome the one absolute and unstoppable force in life? As Winter makes way for Spring, the Dark Hour finally comes to an end!



The Persona 3 movie series is an adaptation of the Persona 3 video game, shown yearly from 2013 to 2016. Being the finale of a series of movies, it is highly recommended to start watching from the first movie (Spring of Birth) before watching Winter of Rebirth. Take heed, the posters and art style alone are ample warnings: the movies deal with heavy themes, the most prominent being the act of facing and accepting the inevitability of death and the passage of time. Few anime have dared venture this deeply into these themes, and the execution of the story really proves that these movies are indeed something special.

Stunning visuals apt for a movie this grand aside, the powerful messages in the films make this movie series, especially this final one, a work of art. There's no reason for anyone, anime fan or not, to miss out in this quartet of movies. While it may seem like a long time investment to go through, the end result is more than worth it. This series will undoubtedly be a life-changing experience.

Let's dive in and bear witness to some of the best storytelling in recent animated movie history.



GAMER'S ARENA

by Reikisha

Rallying Under The Horned Lion Emblem



The **Erebonian Empire** has been in the middle of a blatant power struggle between two prominent factions in the recent years: The Four Great Houses of Aristocracy are united as one, calling themselves the **Noble Alliance**. Another is the **Reformist Faction**, which is made up of all working class commoners with Gilliath Osborne as their leader.

Meanwhile, a new term begins at the **Thors Military Academy**. **Rean Schwarzer**, a 17-year old boy who hailed from the northern province of Ymir, finds himself attending the academy as a part of **Class VII**—a special class consisting of both commoners and aristocrats. Since joining Class VII, Rean and his friends have matured and put aside their presumptions of the two social classes while experiencing first-hand the reality of the empire.

First Liberl, then Crossbell, and now it's Erebonia. **Nihon Falcom** is here once again to present the third trilogy of the Kiseki series.

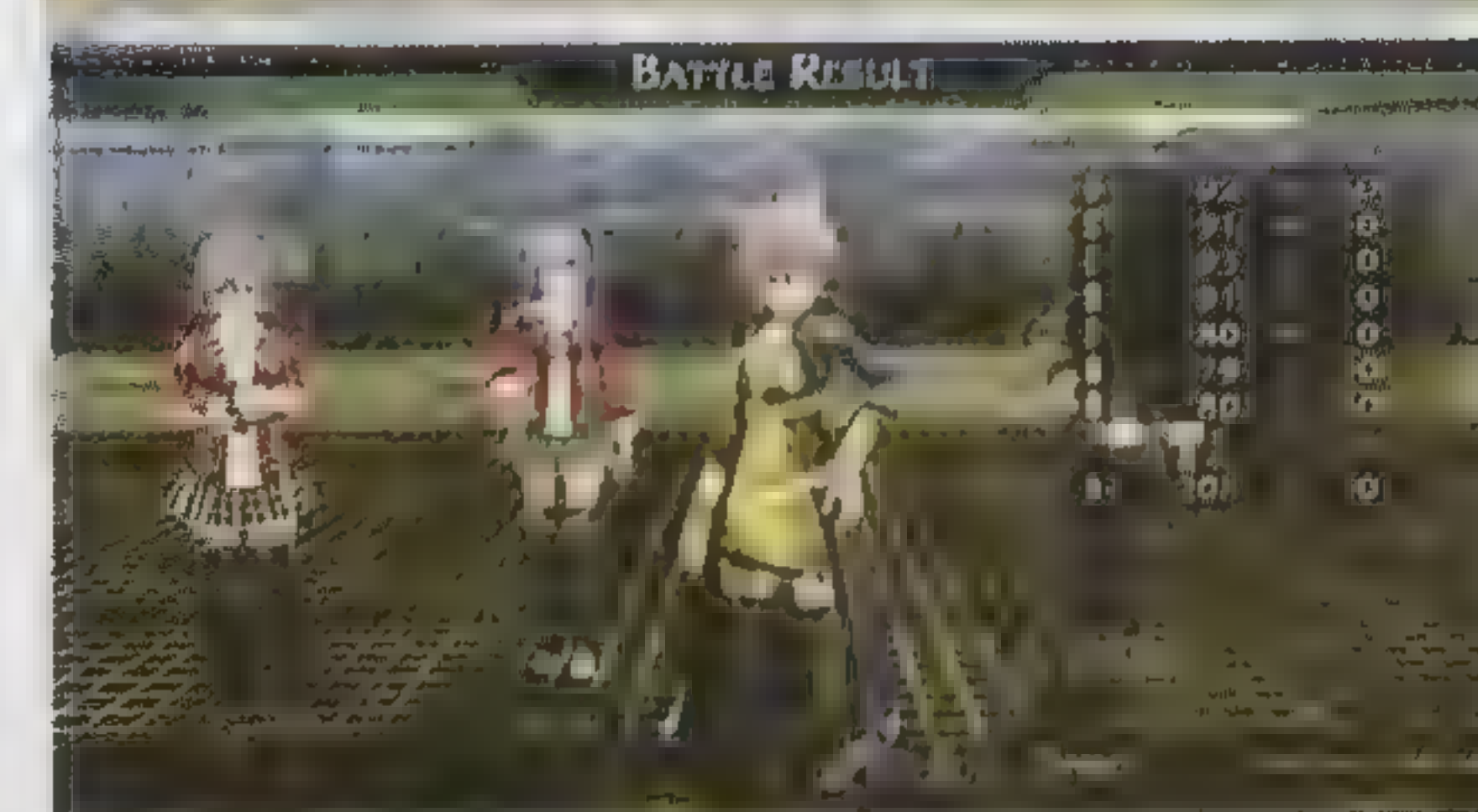
The Legend of Heroes: Trails of Cold Steel (Eiyuu Densetsu: Sen no Kiseki) is a role-playing game for the PlayStation 3 and PlayStation Vita, released on September 26, 2013 in Japan. Its sequel, *Trails of Cold Steel II*, was released on September 25, 2014 for the PS3 and PS Vita. The 3rd game titled *Trails of Cold Steel III* was announced on December 16, 2015 for unspecified platforms. **XSEED Games** localized the first two titles and released the first game in North America on December 22, 2015.

Gameplay

Gameplay is nearly the same as the previous Kiseki game, but with a few changes: "**Tactical Link System**" allows the player to create a link between 2 characters and have them perform follow-up attacks when given the chance, dealing additional damage and providing other benefits to the duo.

The "**Master Quartz**" system from *Ao no Kiseki*, gives a character certain effects during battle based on the master quartz equipped in their ARCUS unit.

Trails of Cold Steel is the first Kiseki game to feature 360 degree camera control, 3D character models, and voice conversations between characters on the overworld map. It is also the first one made for the PS3 and has the ability to cross-save between the PS3 and Vita.



Review

If you've played the *Trails in the Sky* trilogy, you'll know what to expect once you've started playing *Trails of Cold Steel*. The game may be seven chapters long, but it will take you at least 4 hours to finish one chapter. Not because the pacing is slow, mind you. It's because every chapter will make you do a lot of stuff ranging from monster extermination to searching for missable hidden quests. Spending more time making sure that you didn't miss anything in one chapter will be worth it because scoring an A or S at the end of the chapter means that you will be rewarded with useful items and accessories for completing all the possible tasks that you can do.

Switching from sprites to 3D may feel awkward at first, but it will eventually grow onto you after spending hours playing the game. It's also thanks to the graphics upgrade. *Trails of Cold Steel*'s combat system feels more dynamic now compared to the previous Kiseki games. Additional mechanics such as the Tactical Link System gives you the opportunity to choose two dynamic duos in your four-man team as well as spending time with a character of your choice in-order to strengthen Rean's bonds with them during his free time. However, the problem is that the rest of Class VII won't always be a part of Rean's team during their field studies. For example, if your main party consists of Laura, Fie and Elliot as the attack members, there's a high probability that any of those three won't be a part of Rean's group for the duration of their field study.

Nihon Falcom did a very great job of producing another quality JRPG that will be remembered for years. From the captivating storyline to the lovable set of characters, everything about *Trails of Cold Steel* was impeccable. Well, except for one thing: the first game ending with a cliffhanger. Since *Trails of Cold Steel* is another trilogy game, we'll let it slide.

This is the kind of game you should play as soon as possible! When you see a game made by Nihon Falcom, it's 100% guaranteed that it will leave you satisfied and instantly become a fan.

It all
BEGINS
with
ZERO

Phantom of the Kill

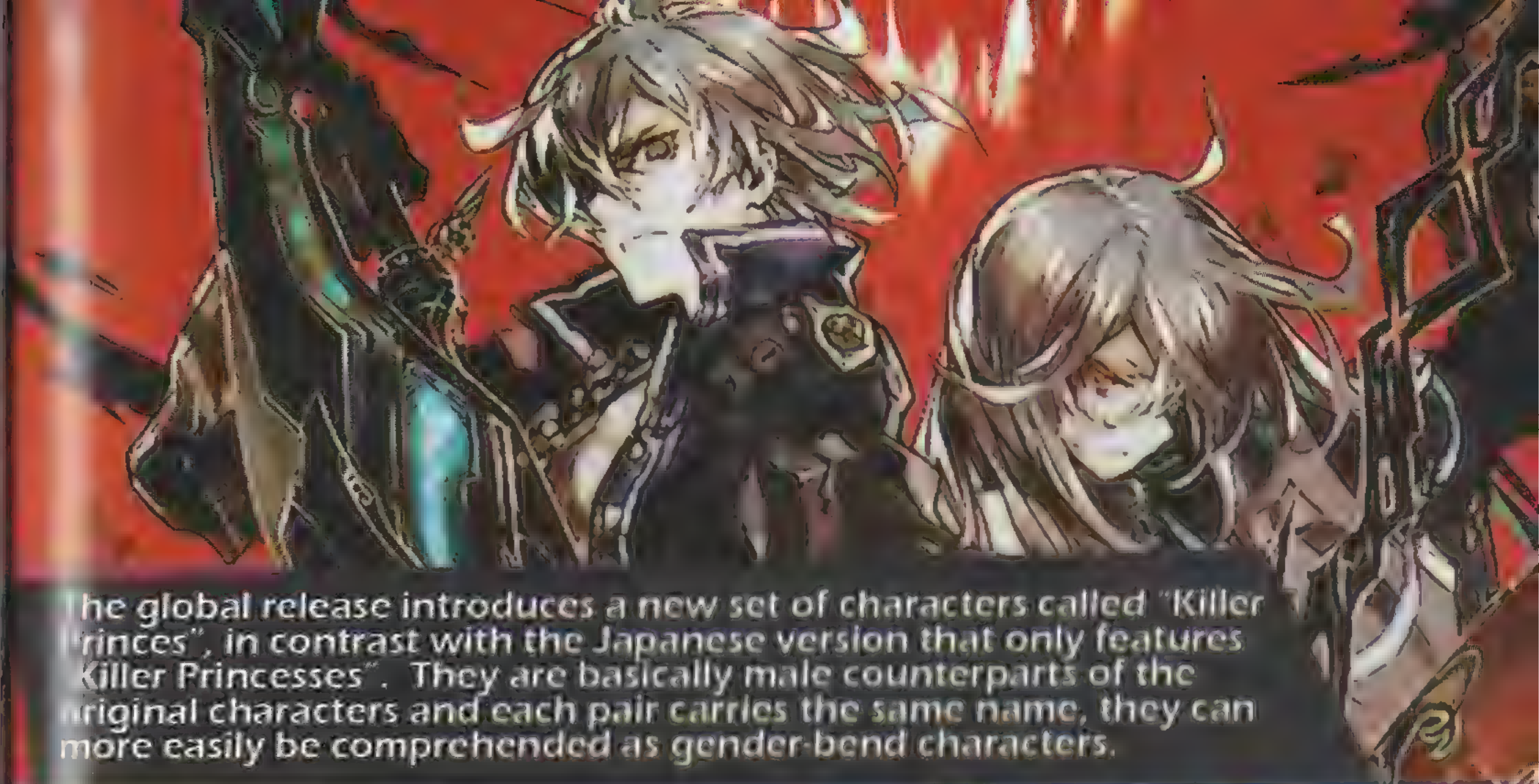
天上の悪魔は

地上の天使

ファントム・オブ・ザ・キル

Platform:
Smartphones, Tablets
OS:
Android, iOS
Developer:
Gumi and Fuji Games
Publisher:
Gumi

Phantom of the Kill is a 3D, turn-based tactical role playing game for the smartphones and tablets by Gumi and Fuji Games. The game's global version debuted in North America during the 2015 Anime Expo where a playable demo was featured and was later followed by a release with the app made available for download from play stores.



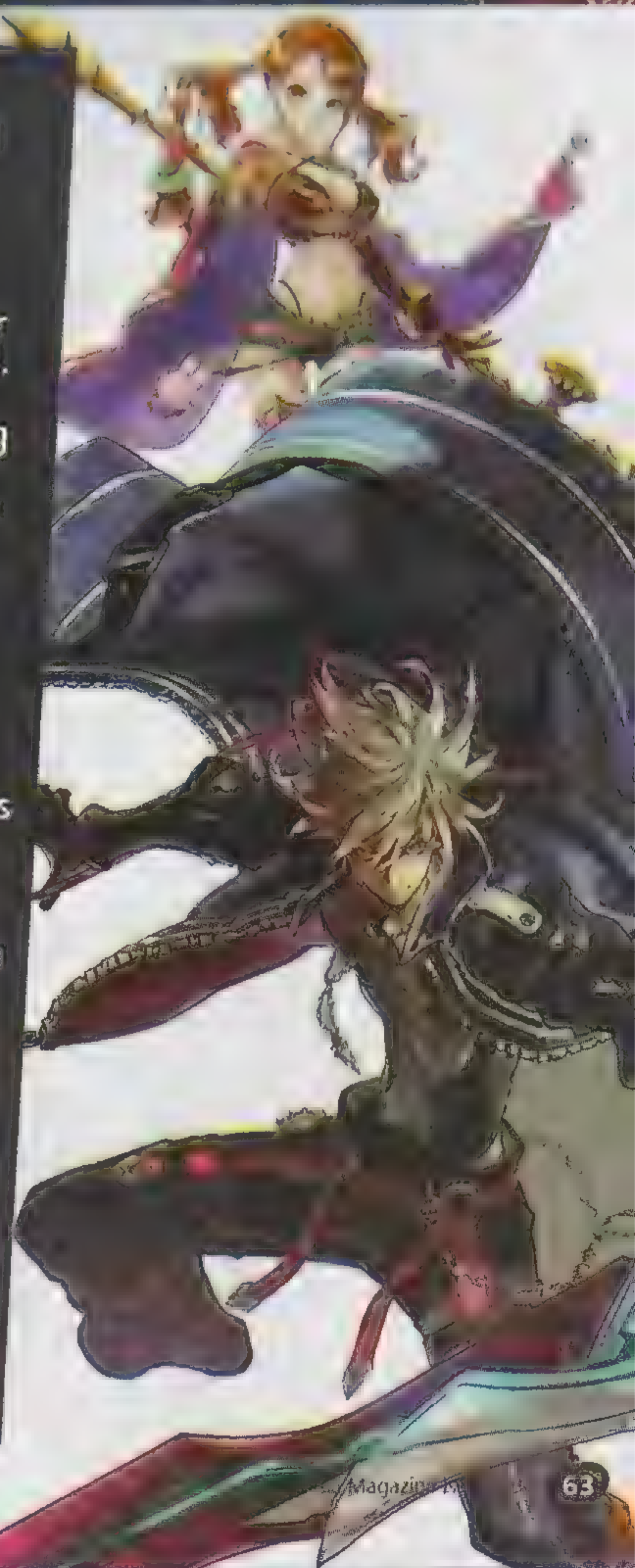
The global release introduces a new set of characters called "Killer Princes", in contrast with the Japanese version that only features "Killer Princesses". They are basically male counterparts of the original characters and each pair carries the same name, they can more easily be comprehended as gender-bend characters.

The main point of the game is to recruit allies and collect powerful weapons and useful items that would assist you in conquering the battlefield.

The gameplay is that of a turn-based strategy game and the battle ends when either the enemy or the player's side gets annihilated. Phantom of the Kill follows the weapon triangle rule where certain weapons are strong against another and weak against something else therefore eliminating absolute dominance in the field. During a player's turn, they may move, attack, wait or use items until each unit has taken action or if the player decides to immediately end their turn. Eliminating all enemies would result to victory while the reverse would mean game over.

The game includes a large cast of characters that has their names and origins derived from mythical and legendary weapons and armaments. The game also features rocking BGMS and cool anime backgrounds along with the new set of characters that comes with a whole new story lined up for the players to experience. Mamoru Oshii, the famous director of Ghost in the Shell served as the editorial supervisor that provided the game's opening animation.

With the help of legendary weapons that were reborn as heroes, players are met with challenges that enable them to use their skills to dominate the battlefield. When strategy meets drama, clever tactics is the key to attain victory.



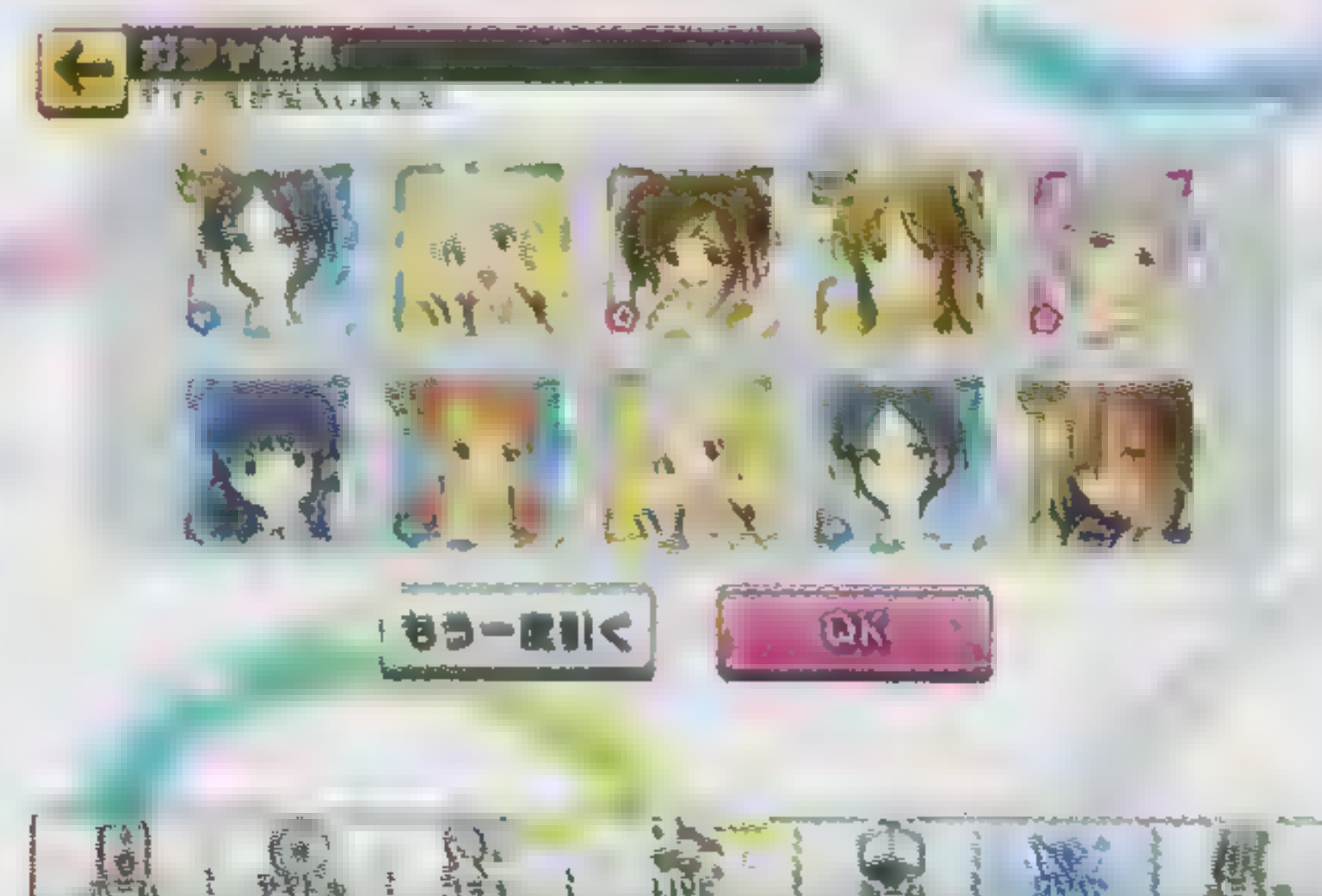


Calling all aspiring producers!

The time has finally come for you to take potential idols under your wing and train them so that they can shine at their brightest during their performances. But first, you need to be educated about your role as a producer in the newest Idolm@ster game before you start scouting for talents.

Are you ready to walk the path of the producer, Otafan-P?

The Idolm@ster Cinderella Girls: Starlight Stage is a social rhythm game created for the android and iOS by Bandai Namco Entertainment and was released in September 2015.



GAMEPLAY

Starlight Stage is a rhythm game where you tap and slide notes on your smartphone. The **producer (player)** can only have one quintet unit perform at a time, and each idol represents a note that needs to be tapped. Idols in Starlight Stage are separated into three types: **Cool**, **Passion**, and **Cute**. To get new idols of various types and rarity, producers must try their luck by scouting, either via **Local (Friend Points)** or **Platinum (Star Jewels)**.

There are currently over 20 songs to play with more be added in the future. Some songs are available through download codes, and some are solo versions that are unlocked by finishing certain events.

Aside from the main game, producers can also manage their room and decorate it with various kinds of home furniture as well as interact with your idols.

NOTE:
The game is only available in Japan so for non-Japanese players who want to get into the game, an app called **QooApp** needs to be installed first, and then look for the Cinderella Girls Starlight Stage app afterwards.

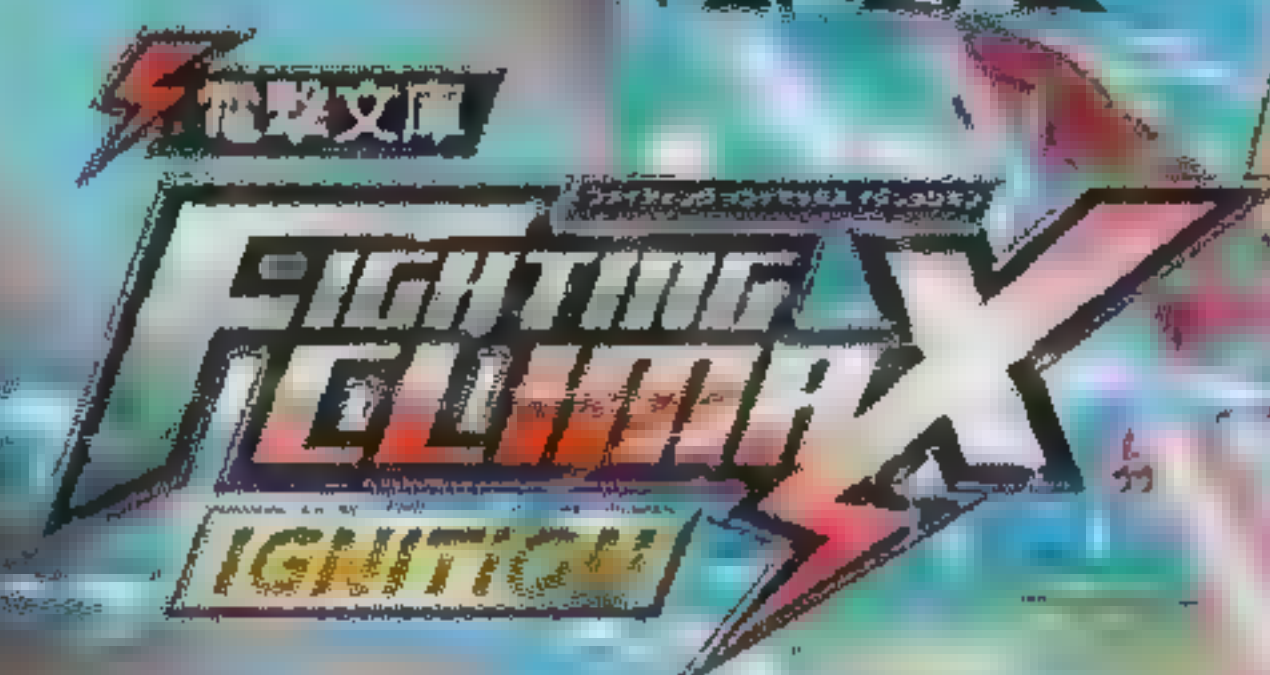


REVIEW

Starlight Stage is a very enjoyable and addicting rhythm game for mobile devices. The game never feels boring at all since Bandai Namco frequently releases new content and hold monthly events to give old and new producers the motivation to play. However, just like other mobile games, the scouting system is very unkind to some producers due to bad draws.

For long time im@s fans, this is your chance to make your idols shine brighter than any star in the world.

Here Come the New Envoys of Hope!



Are you ready for the dream duel of epic proportions? Ready or not, here they come!

Dengeki Bunko Fighting Climax Ignition is the much-awaited sequel to the first **Fighting Climax** game. This 2D fighting game plays around a simple concept: Pit a tag team of three anime characters against another trio.

The game features **16** playable characters from your favorite **Dengeki Bunko** series, plus roughly double that amount for support characters, and two bonus characters from video games. Now, you can witness the electric powers of **Misaka** take on **Kuroyukihime** and her **Black Lotus** avatar, or the battle between rapier-users **Emi Yusa** and **Asuna**. That dream team-up of **Kirito**, **Shiba Tatsuya**, and **Kamijou Tuma** can also be made a reality now!



The great thing about **Ignition** is the simplicity of the game. The controls and combos for the game are easy enough for people to learn the basics within a few minutes. However, the more advanced combos will take time to learn and serve as an ample challenge for aspiring players. For those wanting to take their fighting game prowess to the next level, the game has a lot more tricks and mechanics in store for players to study such as reading guards, using rightfully named "trump cards", and timing attacks to create the flashiest and most effective way of pummeling your opponent to the ground.

For this installment, the game also added an "ignition" system which allows a power-up for one of three chosen characters at the end of each round. This adds some depth, as players would have to carefully think and adapt based on how the previous round ended in choosing the best choice for the buff which would undoubtedly turn the tides in the next round.

Dengeki Bunko Fighting Climax Ignition is now available for PS3, PS4, and PSVita.



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perkee2011@gmail.com





Pretty Alien: Friend, Foe or Lover?

HITORIBOCCHI NO
CHIKYUU SHINRYAKU

by Elaine

Don't you think all our friends started as aliens in our lives? They are from a different world but then suddenly bump into ours, invading this quiet life and successfully blends in. Funny thing is that their invasion ranges from normal to completely absurd. In **Hirose Kouichi's** case, his first meeting with **Ootori** was in the totally absurd level.

On the entrance ceremony, Kouichi, who was excited for his incoming high school life, was chased by an ominous masked girl claiming that she is there to take back the life she lent to him. Freaked out, Kouichi escapes from the girl, but to no avail. When she found out that the heart that she lent him has adapted naturally in his body, she decided to let the boy keep it and asked to become his friend instead. He naturally declined though after learning that she is an alien who is plotting to take over the earth (alone!), but will his refusal be simple enough to cut their connection, especially when he contains the heart that was once hers?

Serialized in **Gessan** magazine, **Hitoribocchi no Chikyuu Shinryaku** (Invading the World Alone) is an ongoing manga series by **Ogawa Maiko** with currently nine volumes consisting of 46 chapters.

Ideas of alien invasion never grows old and can always become interesting depending on how twisted the plot will become. The mystery of the girl's origin is one that can keep its readers, so it would be a great plus if this sector will be laid out properly.

Kouichi and Ootori's relationship is a strange one and will make you anticipate the development, especially for young readers.



14 Sides of Romance

AKAI MI HAJIKETA

by Elaine

Reading hundreds of pages of romantic twists and turns of just one couple could be dragging for some people. Likewise, keeping a long romance story interesting until the end is challenging for an author. Akai Mi Hajiketa can save you from the possibility of getting bored with a certain love story, since for every chapter, a distinct love story is being told.

Published by **Enterbrain** in **Harta** magazine, **Akai Mi Hajiketa** (The Red Fruit Burst) is a completed manga series written and illustrated by **Takahashi Natsuko** from August 2009 to December 2014. It is comprised of 2 volumes including 14 chapters, all with different tales to it.

Some romance manga writers tend to input similarities of characters in their supposedly different creations. One way to look at it is that it gives identity to the writer, but somehow it is also fun to read short stories by a single author which does not have any obvious common properties (aside from the art).

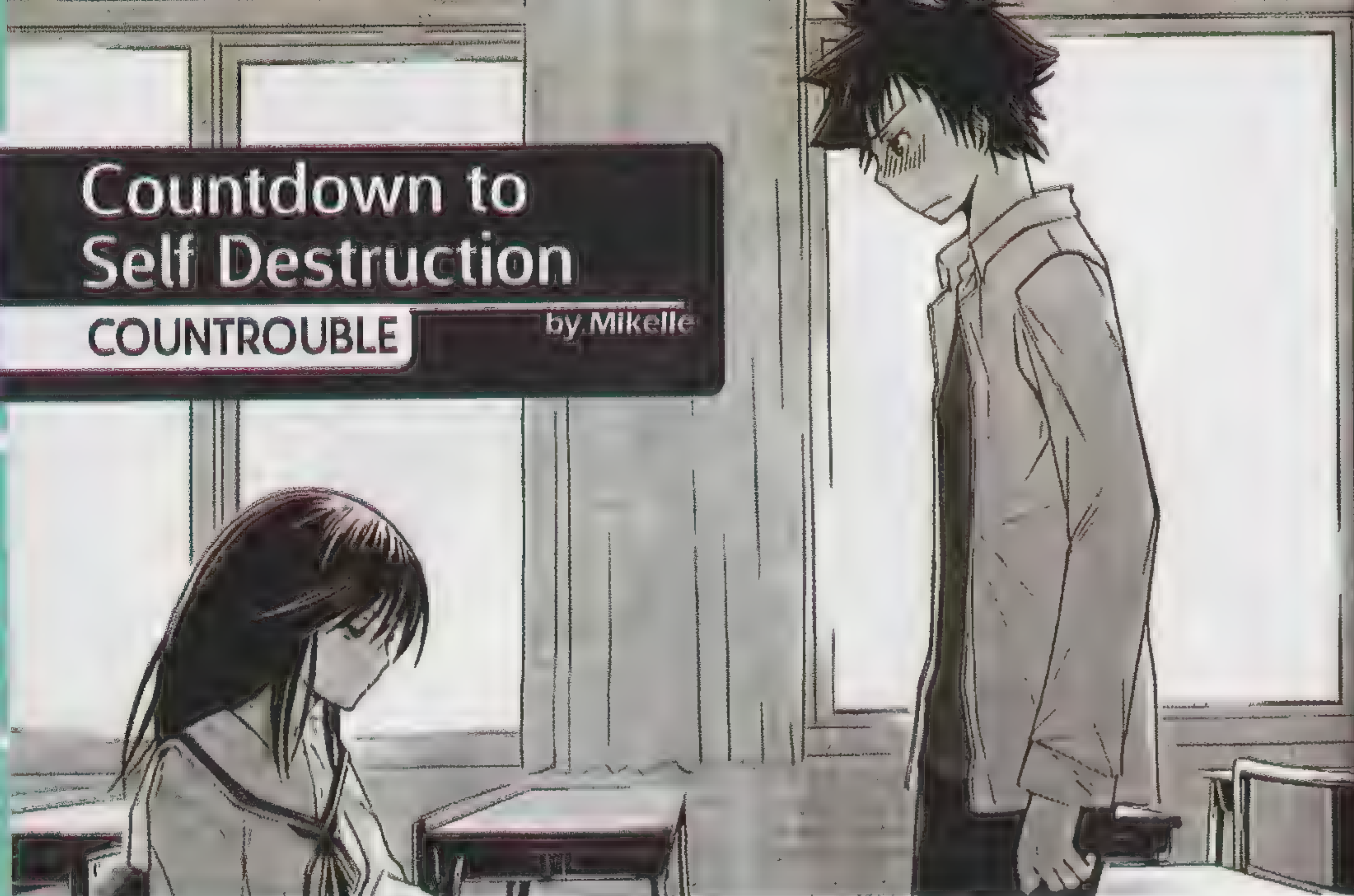
Perhaps it's the length of one story per chapter that makes them easier to be distinct, but surely one will not lose interest every end of the chapter of this series. Characters are from different ages and perspectives, and it is highly recommended to be read especially by those who are used to reading only shoujo stories. Seinen's romance is a whole lot different than shoujo's and will surely show you another side of romance.



Countdown to Self Destruction

COUNTROUBLE

by Mikelle



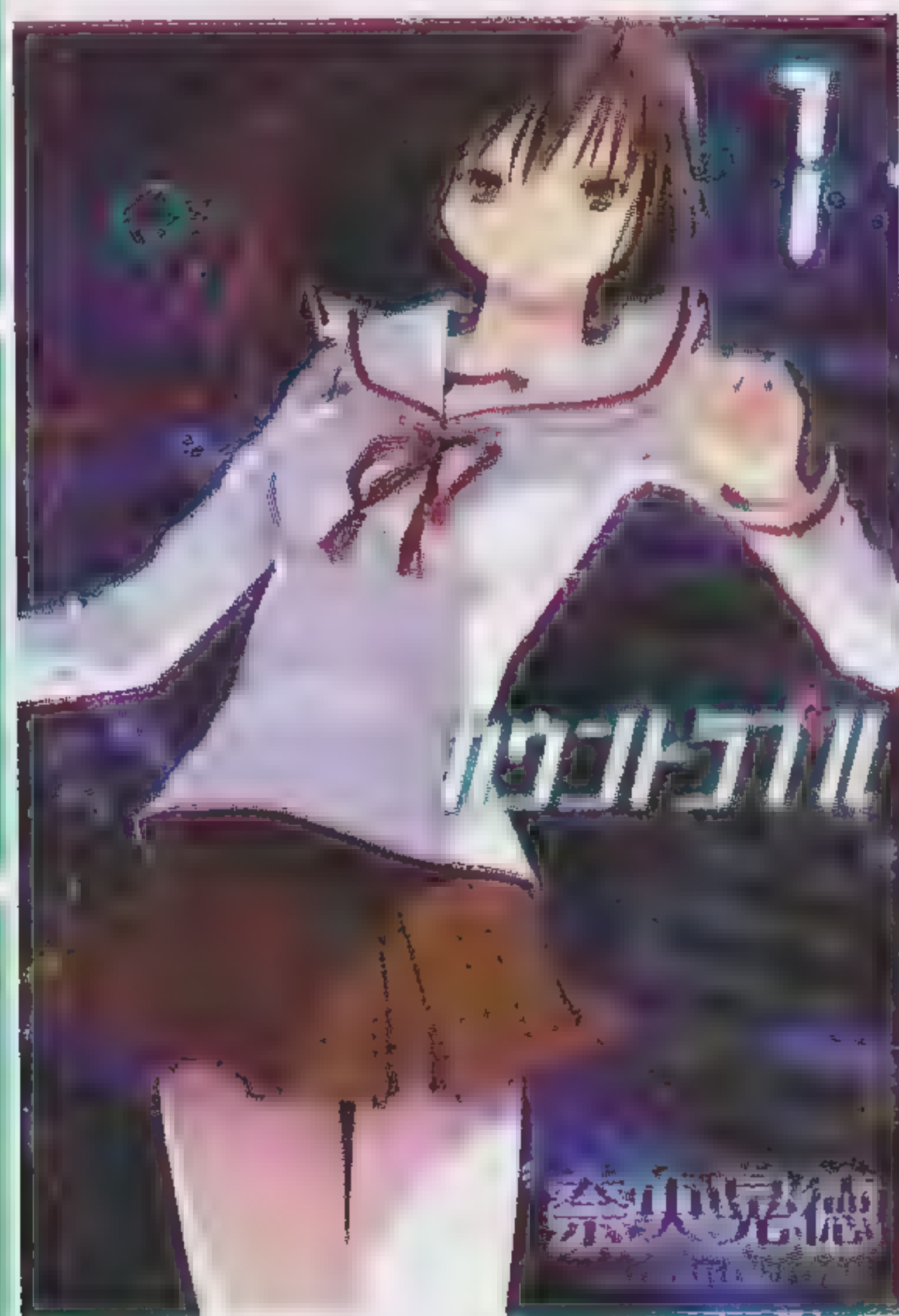
Ever confessed?

That moment where you're desperately try to stop your legs from shaking or running away while being careful not to stutter the words coming from your mouth. Just the thought of those times would definitely make anyone embarrassed, though would surely treasure those moments are the precious salad days.

The story revolves around Matsuhiro Kouta, a typical student who is secretly infatuated with his fellow cool beauty of a classmate called Yoshizawa Akino. However, he lacks the courage to confess his feelings towards his crush, yet luckily heaven didn't forsake his love life. The angel of love Sasara descends before him and declares that she would assist Kouta and give him the push the he needs with the help of a little magic – but there's a certain condition.

Countrouble is a romantic comedy manga written by Akinari Nao and was serialized in Bessatsu Shounen Magazine with a total of 7 volumes. This was Nao's work before her current serialized manga; Trinity Seven which already has an anime adaptation.

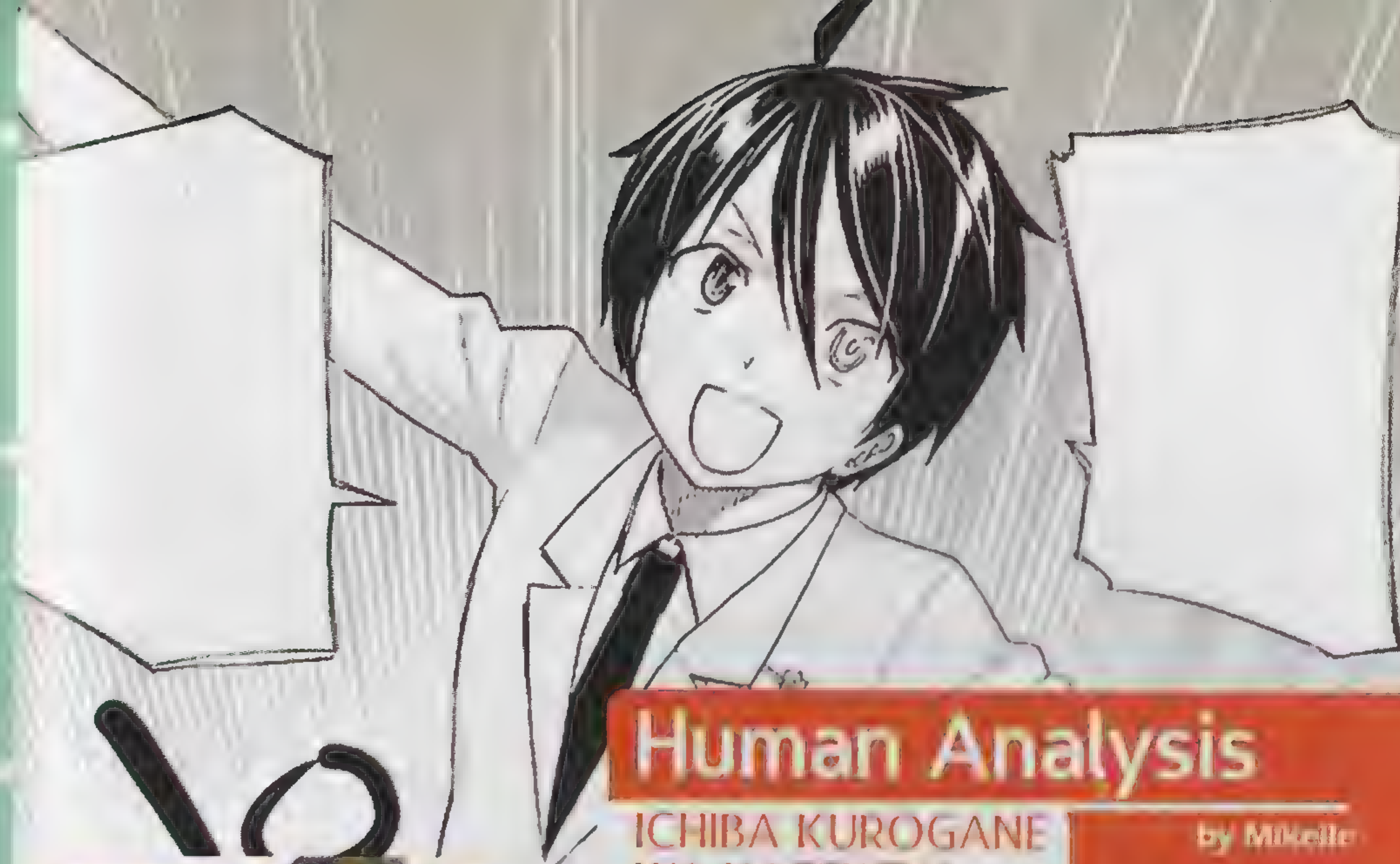
Akinari Nao's great art style and character design are very pleasing and is quite the eye candy. The humorous gags brought about by Sasara's mischievousness would make readers laughing till the end of every chapter. Hilarious comedy paired with straight forward romance, Countrouble is the perfect cup of tea for those who thirst for a good romance story. Pick up this series and find out if Kouta's romance is going to be filled with utter regret or will it be a straight shot to success.



Human Analysis

ICHIBA KUROGANE
WA KASEHITAI

by Mikelle



Ichiba Kurogane wa Kasehitai is a school-themed comedy manga written by Masaki Gatou and is currently serialized in Ura Sunday magazine. The title is literally translated as: Ichiba Kurogane Wants to Earn Income.

Ichiba Kurogane, the heir to a powerful conglomerate, has been given everything since he was a child and is the very epitome of the word spoiled. Ironically, he admires people who strive and earns money for themselves and he sees them as respectable, beautiful individuals. Due to those people he met, Ichiba decided to leave his family for the time being and attend the world renowned Gakuenzono Academy which is uninfluenced by the outside world and runs under its own currency. An academy where one's worth is decided by how much money he/she earns. But when it rains it pours and as soon as he arrived at the academy; troubles ensues around him which could result to an immediate expulsion.

Ichiba Kurogane wa Kasegitai is a humorous manga that deals with economics and tackles different character's individual skills. Most works that fall under this genre usually has a serious setting but this manga is unique in that aspect as the story is filled with light-hearted story telling with just the right pacing. The characters are also interesting and the art is also pleasing to look at.

Ichiba Kurogane actually posses a rare ability which allows him to discern a person's worth just by glancing at them. With this as his only remaining asset, could Ichiba Kurogane overcome the obstacles laid before him?



The game shogi or Japanese chess may seem too complicated for many because of its technical terms that mostly translate well into Japanese. Its complex game rules are also intimidating, but there is one rule which differentiates it from the rest of the chess games all over the world: the drop out rule which enables the player to use the piece retrieved from the opponent and use it against him.

Much can be compared to the life of **Rei Kiriya** who lost his family to an accident. His father's friend who is a professional shogi player adopted him. But to be accepted into the family, Rei had to lose himself and pretend to be obsessed over shogi. Since then, he devoted himself into studying and playing shogi, and eventually surpassed the two children of his adoptive father. By age seventeen, he is ranked 5-dan, just three levels short of the 8-dan genius.

In his new life as a high school student and professional shogi player, three sisters **Akari, Hinata, and Momo** and their grandfather show him that a family can support him in good and bad times, and will free him from the chains of unhealthy competition and obsession.



March Comes in Like a Lion or more popularly known as **Sangatsu no Lion**, is an ongoing manga series written and illustrated by **Chica Umino** in 2007 and published by **Hakusensha**. The mangaka is popularly known for her best-selling shoujo manga **Honey and Clover**. It is the opposite of **Sangatsu no Lion** for seinen as its demographic, but this manga is still a light read with themes of school life, comedy, and drama. It can appeal to anyone who loves a combination of these genres and those who are interested in stationary sports. The places drawn in the manga as the mangaka researched herself are highly relevant to the new life of the protagonist. Other important details such as characters' emotions, scenery, and random objects are also drawn in detail.

As time passes, Rei is becoming more of himself with the help of the three sisters and other people truly concerned about him. Cheer on for Rei in his friendly competitions with some of the most amusing shogi players and see him slowly brighten up to the world that he had started to dread.



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Raised by the Power of Six

by James

Having a sibling or two is sometimes fun, sometimes a pain, and always a joy. Well, how about five other siblings to live with you? To be exact, not just siblings, but sextuplets. Seems like a major headache and a blast at the same time, right? If you agree with that, then Osomatsu-san is right up your alley.



Before you ask why the old-school cartoon-like animation, you should know that this series is a continuation of an anime adaptation of mangaka's comedy manga of the same title, which ran in the Weekly Shonen Jump magazine from 1962 to 1969. In fact, it's already the third iteration, with the original anime running back in 1966, the second series in 1988, and the latest one just this winter season of 2015. In all of the versions, the show is about the Matsuno siblings, who happen to be identical sextuplets, namely:



1. Osomatsu – the eldest and the self-proclaimed “leader” of the siblings. He usually looks after the five younger Matsunos

2. Karamatsu – clean with his clothes and hygiene, a bit brash, and can't seem to make his mind.

3. Choromatsu – the third eldest, he's a geeky and pessimistic smartypants who's usually the voice of reason.

4. Ichimatsu – the fourth son, he has a “cool loner” vibe with him, thus the reason why his strange affinity with cats.

5. Jushimatsu – the group's overall strange and much-needed goofball.

6. Todomatsu – the youngest of the siblings, he's in tune with his female side, which also makes him popular with the ladies.

In its latest revival, which was released in commemoration of the 80th birthday celebration of the series' mangaka Fujio Akatsuka, the boys are now men. Unfortunately, there's not much to them, as they are NEETs who still live with their parents and are looking for a job. And since they don't have a regular employment, they have all the time in the world to indulge in their many crazy antics. In fact, the show doesn't have a continuous plot; it just chronicles the daily shenanigans of the brothers, which reference otaku culture, real-life situations and problems, and strange situations.

So, if you want a good laugh and see a blast from the past that has aged in the most hilarious way possible, Osomatsu-san is for you.





There maybe are times wherein we want to start a brand new image of ourselves though of course we'll get constant reminders of how we are in the past through people. Chika really wishes to change her image and there's Haruta to tease her for her past.

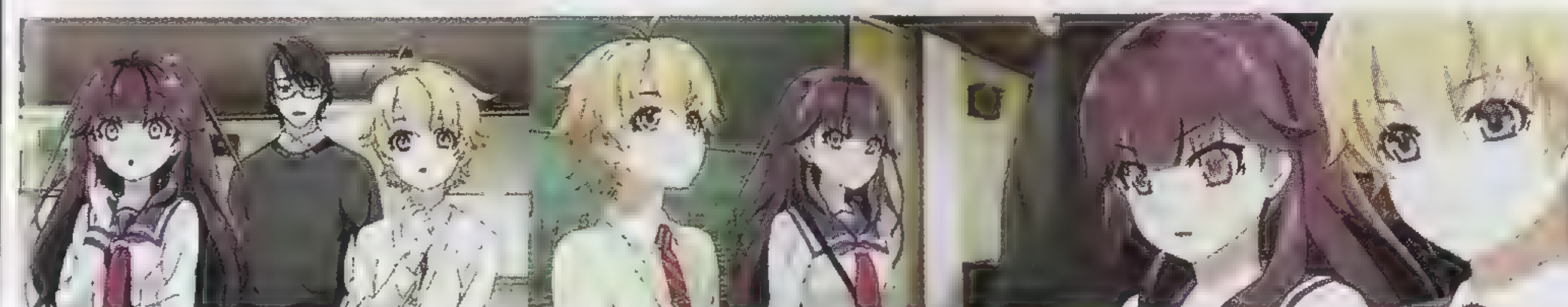


Excitement filled **Homura Chika's** first day of high school as she aims to start a brand new life. Her goal is to become a "cute girl" to replace her tomboyish image. In order to do so, she plans to quit the volleyball and plans to start playing the flute because of it being pretty and feminine in her eyes. Upon joining the wind instrument club, she stumbles on to **Kamijo Haruta**, her childhood friend who she haven't seen in nine years! Haruta is a delicate and smart person, making him and Chika polar opposites.

Chika hoped that their days in the club would go smoothly but they are faced with the dilemma of the group being shut down due to few members and numerous mysterious events keep happening! How will Haruta and Chika face these events?

Haruchika or Haruta & Chika is initially a Japanese novel series written by **Sei Hatsuno** that were published by **Kadokawa Shoten**. So far, five novels have been published since 2008. Back in 2015, it also received a manga adaptation that was published in **Monthly Shonen Ace**. This January 2016, its anime adaptation under the name **Haruchika: Haru & Chika** by P.A. Works aired.

Haruchika is a series that is a combination of different genre, namely friendship, music and mystery in a school life scenario. Look forward to enjoyable case solving scenarios by the club as they face school and club problems along with comedic scenes that will make you laugh. One of the key features rather than the mysteries is the accompaniment of beautiful music, not just for listening but also part of the mystery cases as well. If you are a fan of the novel series, this adaptation is something you should checkout!



Mecha Police Force ACTIVE RAID



With a bunch of crimes happening day by day in the world, we're lucky that we have dependable police forces around to assist the civilians. Imagine how much powerful they can fight in the name of justice when they are equipped with power armors like in Active Raid.



The world of Active Raid takes place in a futuristic era with advanced technology. There is a system called **ACTIVE** (Armored Combined Tactical Intelligence Vanguard Elements) that exists in this era and is adapted to be used along the powered armor suit called **Will Wears** to fight against crime. The series focuses on a police unit in Japan called **Unit 8**, a unit with bad reputation within the police force and the media due their collateral damage to the city's infrastructure.

Active Raid: Kidō Kyōshūshitsu Daihachigakari (Active Raid: Public Mobile Assault Unit Eight) is a Japanese animated series that is produced by **Production IMS** with **Orange** producing the 3D CG. The series is directed by **Noriaki Akitaya** with **Goro Taniguchi** served as chief director. The mangaka **Shun Saeki** designed the characters with **Naoko Nishida** adapting the anime in style. The series will be divided into two cours with the first one aired back in January 2016 with the second season coming in July of the same year.

Joining in the mecha anime roster, Active Raid features action packed scenes along with 3D CG parts. Expect the feel of sentai, like of Kamen Rider or Power Rangers, while watching the series. The superb animation along with surprises in the story will get you hooked to the series.



蒼の彼方のフォーリズム

負けてからが、本当の勝負

Director: Fumihiko Ozaki, Character Design: Kazuo Nakao,
Series Composition: Belle Yoshida, Animation Production: GONZO, Original Story by script

AO NO KANATA NO
FOUR RHYTHM

If My Shoes Had Wings

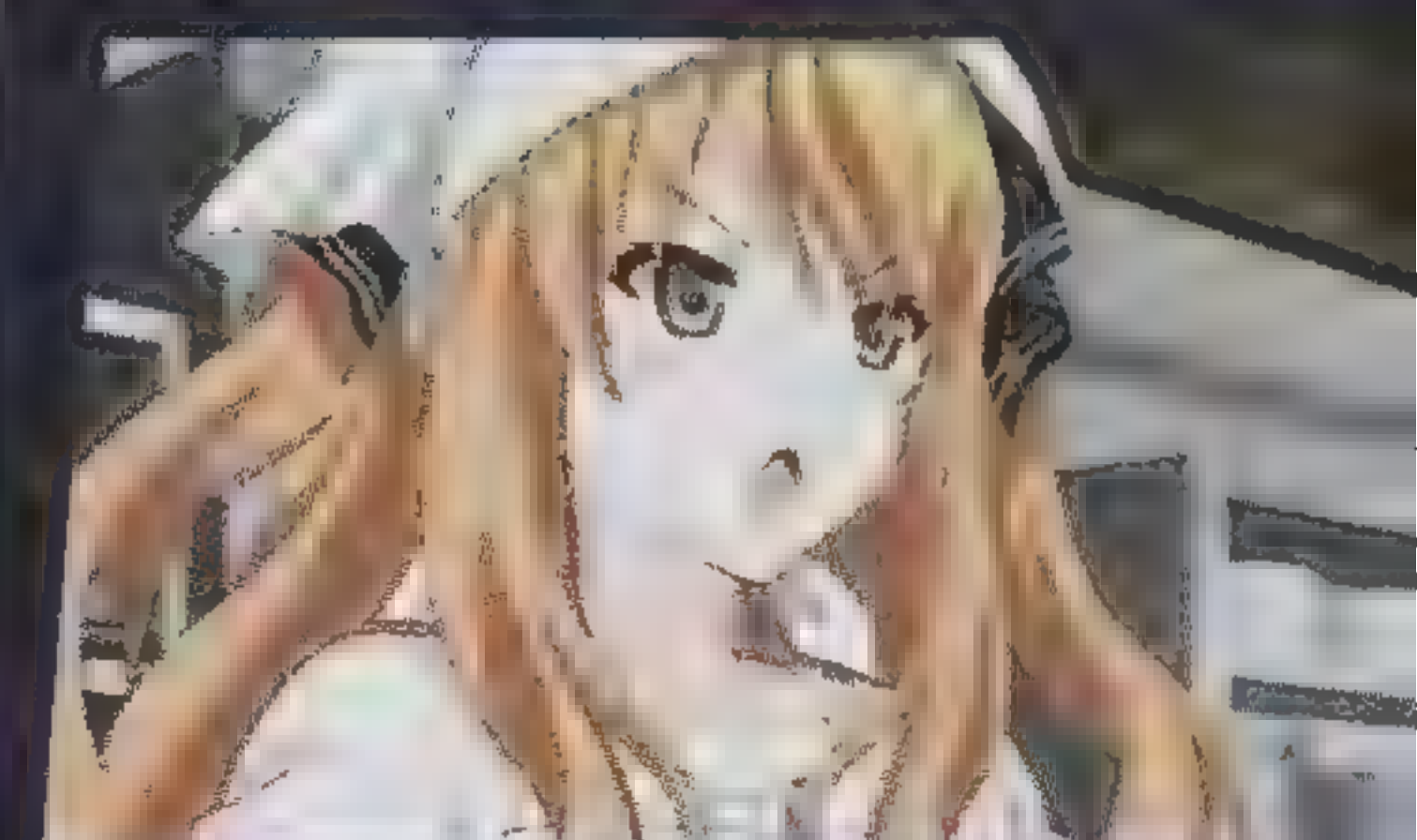
article by: James

Ever since the dawn of civilization, mankind had always been fascinated with flying. In fact, it still is, so much so that inventors are still coming up with wearable tech that can allow people to reach the heavens. Unfortunately, both the jetpack and the hoverboard have been total busts. So, how about flying shoes? Seems just as impossible, if not more, so just leave that to the imagination. If you're having trouble picturing that, why not watch an anime that's all about flying? Get ready to soar with **Ao No Kanata No Four Rhythm**.

The series is set in a fictional world where there is such a place called Four Islands Archipelago, and in this place Grav-Shoes, footwear that allow people to fly, are used on a regular basis as a means of transportation. A newcomer in these islands is Asuka Kurashina, an energetic, cheerful, yet ditzy girl. A new student in Kunahama Institute, she is very much interested in learning how to fly, so her classmates Misaki Tobisawa and Masaya Hinata are with her every step of the way. Unfortunately, it seems like she doesn't have what it takes, until one day, through a chance encounter with a student from another school, she discovers that she is a natural when it comes to flying and Flying Circus, an aerial sport that uses Grav-Shoes. Thus begins the story of the girl who can touch the skies.

As expected of Gonzo, the art style is smooth, beautiful. The characters – an archetypal bubblehead lead, a sensible male companion, and his long-time childhood friend – which are drawn in a very moe style, and its pastel-like color theme help establish a generally relaxed tone. And the anime, despite the sometimes laidback tropical vibe and at other times a heartwarming one, it seamlessly shifts into high gear during Flying Circus scenes and is able to provide fast-paced sky-high action. Lastly, the show is character-driven, as it's more about the life of Asuka during her stay in The Four Islands Archipelago, her love for flying, and how her life experiences and her passion shape her than the Flying Circus games. Having said that, be prepared to be attached to our cute, funny, and spunky lead, and bring some tissues as well.

All in all, **Ao No Kanata No Four Rhythm** has great art, a lot of heart and spirit. Still, it's not for everybody, but those who will get into it will undoubtedly enjoy this heavenly treat.





Child Destined by the Comets

article by: Kahlua

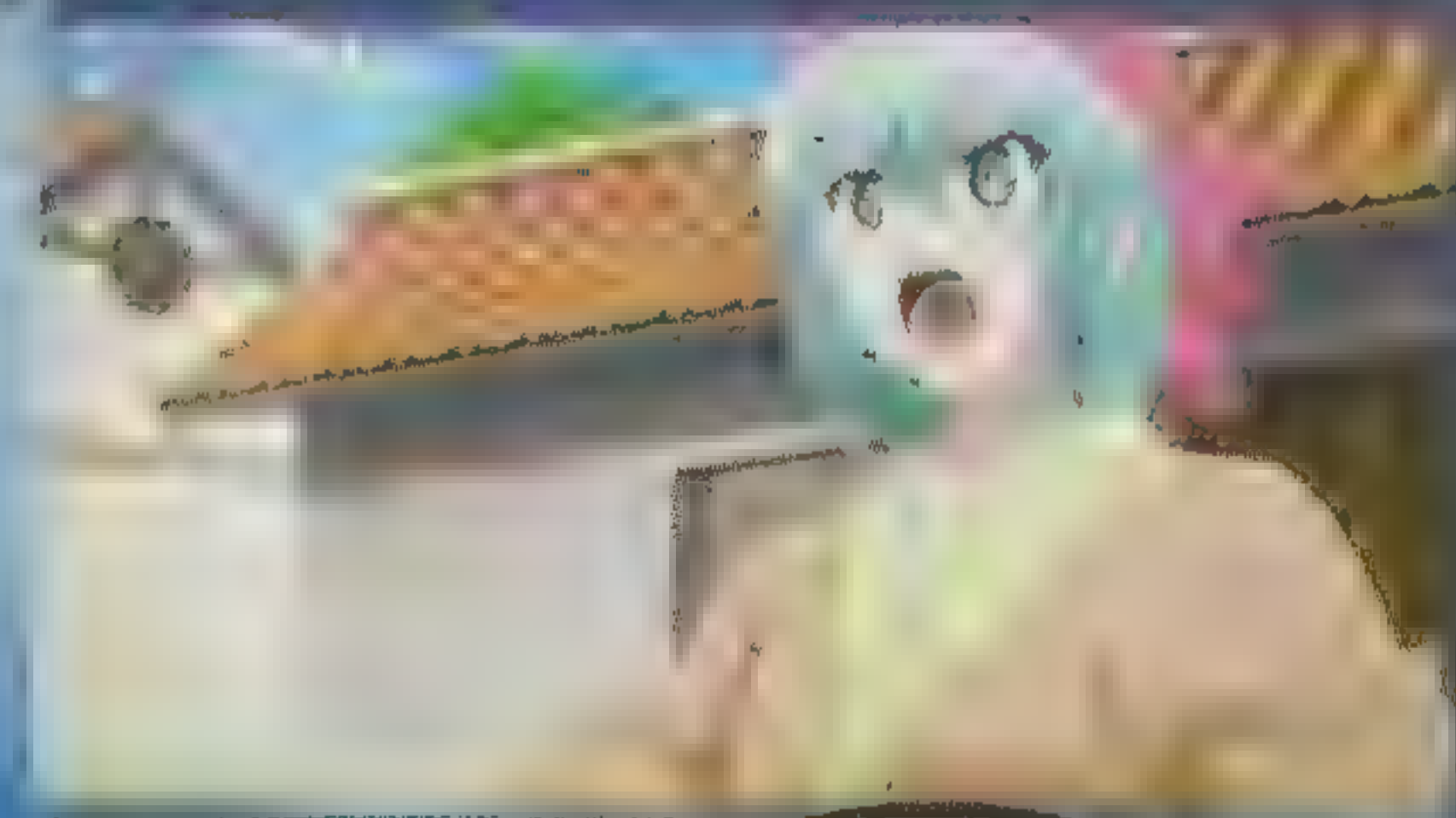
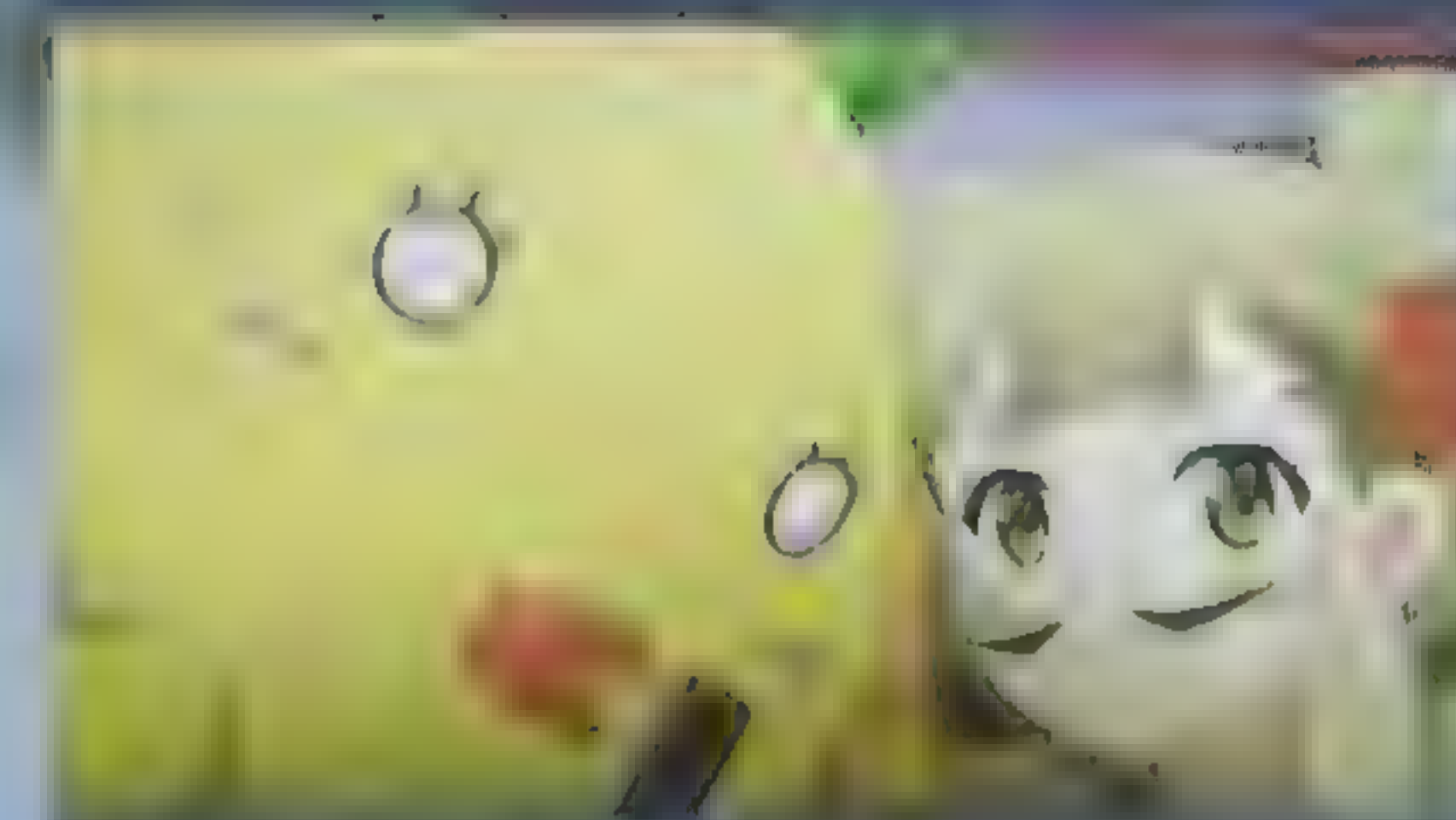
In history, some cultures believe that comets are associated with different kinds of disasters and calamities. The "Reiken" clan who upholds this belief will once again conduct their tradition of selecting the chosen one.

Oobu who possesses a special soul that appears only once in a thousand years takes the examination and takes the path of becoming an exceptional sage of his age. There will be a lot of hindrances, but will he be able to prove that he is the fated child by the falling comets?

Written and illustrated by Guo Wang Bi Xia, Reikenzan: Hoshikuzu-tachi no Utagi is a Chinese manhua series which was later on adapted as an anime series in January 2016 by Studio Deen. The series is directed by Iku Suzuki and character designs are by Makoto Iino. It has a total of 12 episodes which ends in March 2016.

Illustration and art is great even through the perspective of someone who is not used to non-Japanese manga. In a way, manhua's illustration is different than manga which most people are used to, but this anime doesn't send much vibes of being originated from China, probably because the anime was already mostly done by the hands of Japanese illustrators. The opening and ending themes, Fast End and Kizuna, respectively, brings out the right mood for the series. The story, however, somehow is not beautifully laid out for it to become one of the best anime out there. It can still be a good watch though if you are looking for a quick season of a tale set in the traditional and old era of Asia.

See the adventures of Oobu as he walks onto becoming the best disciple to face the foreseen calamity!



KOUKAKU NO PANDORA



紅殻パンドラ
SHOOT URN

FEMALE COMBAT X2

article by: Kahlua

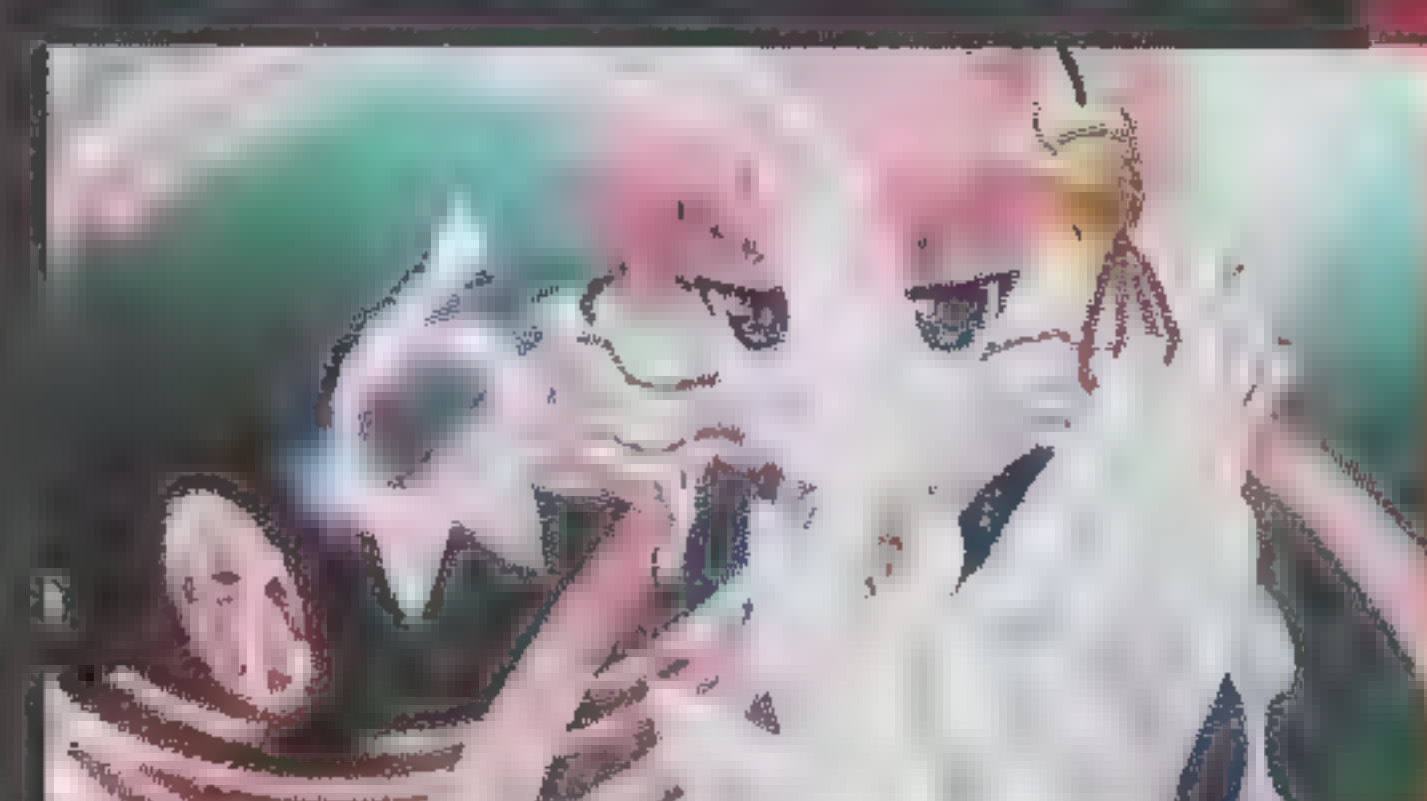
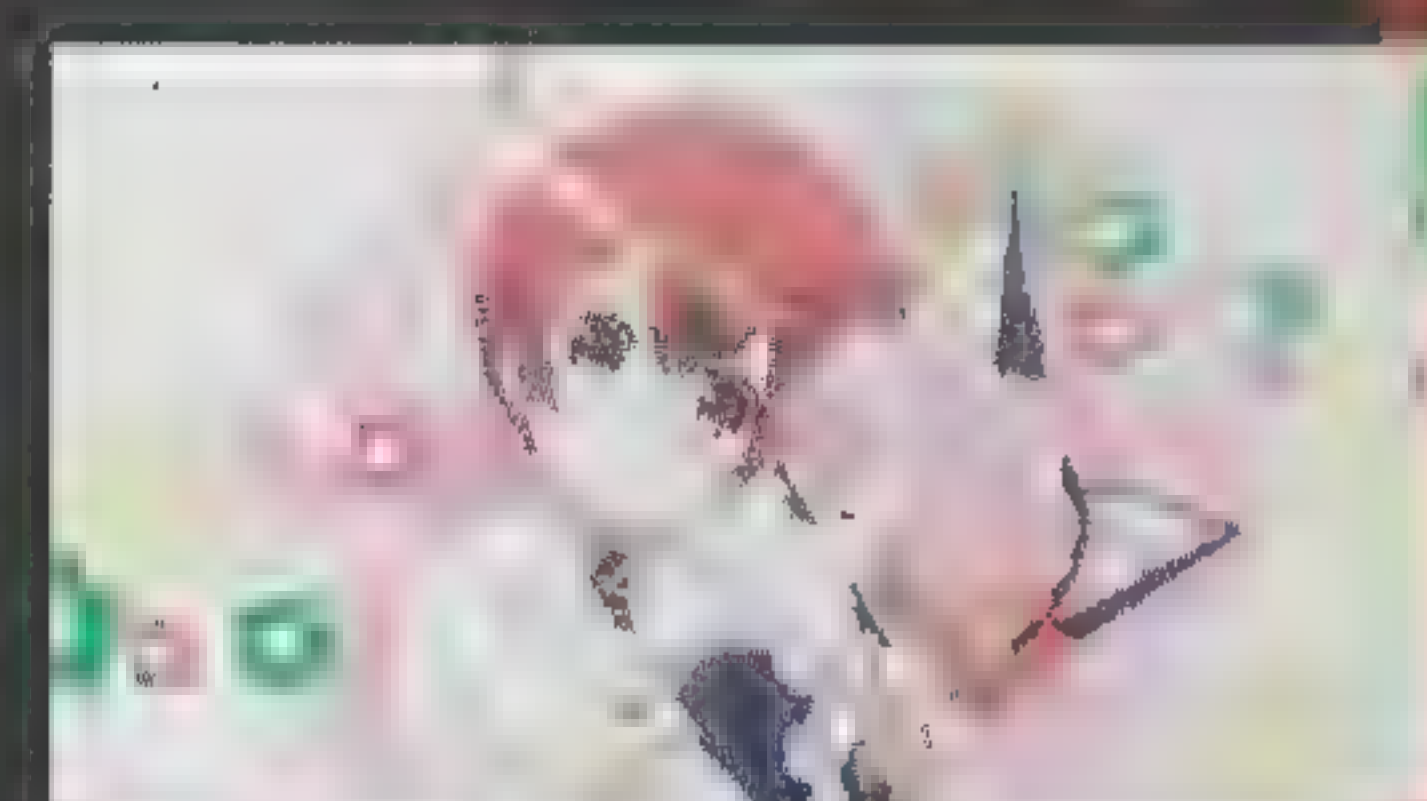
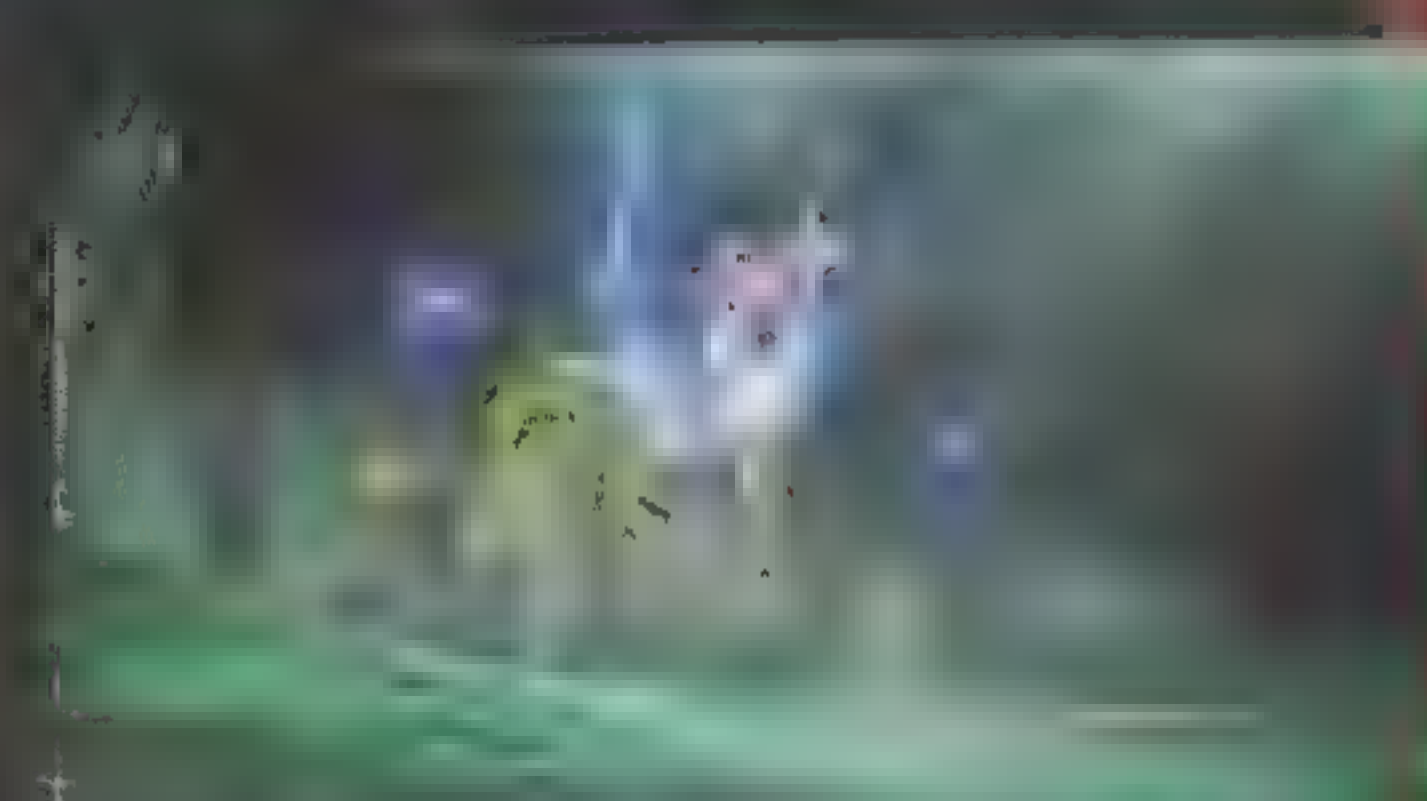
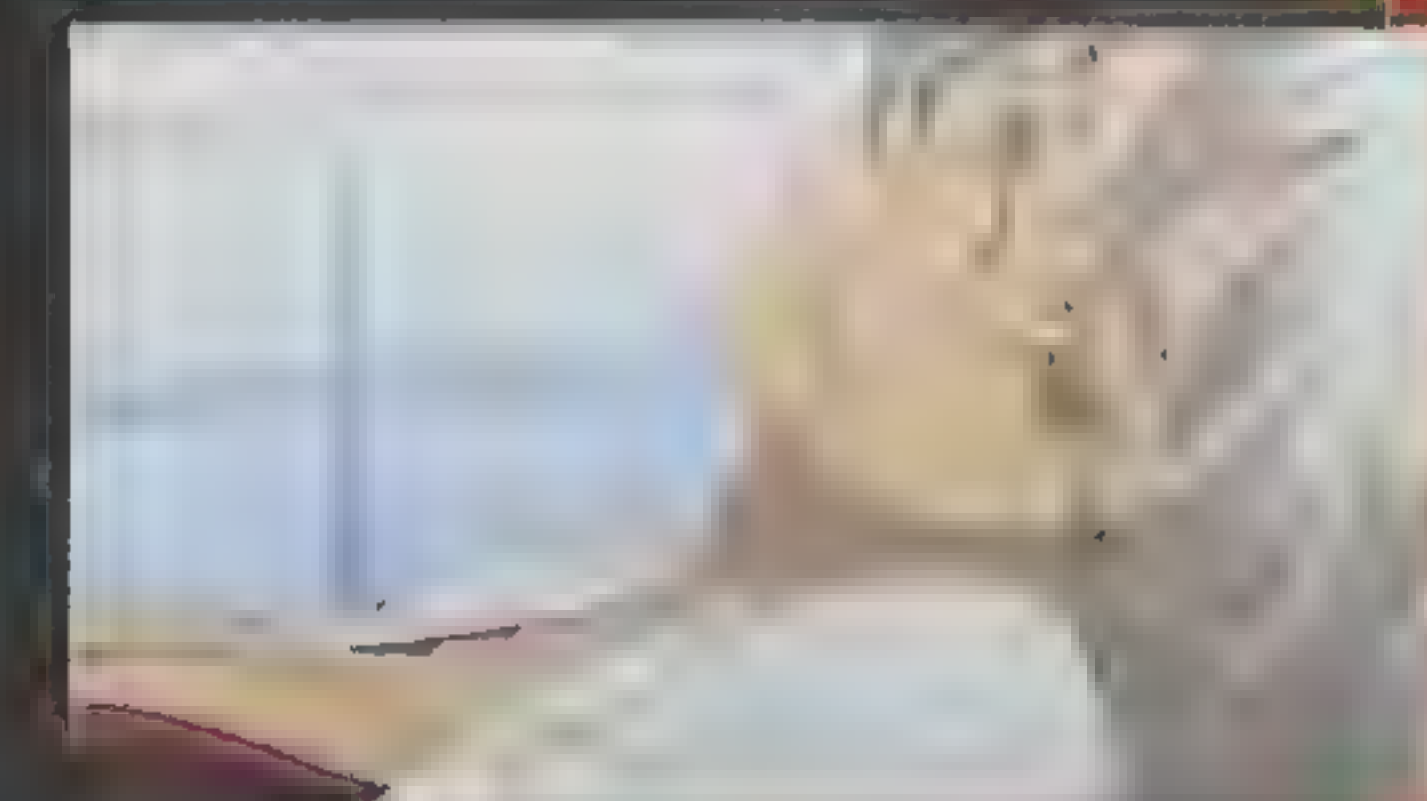
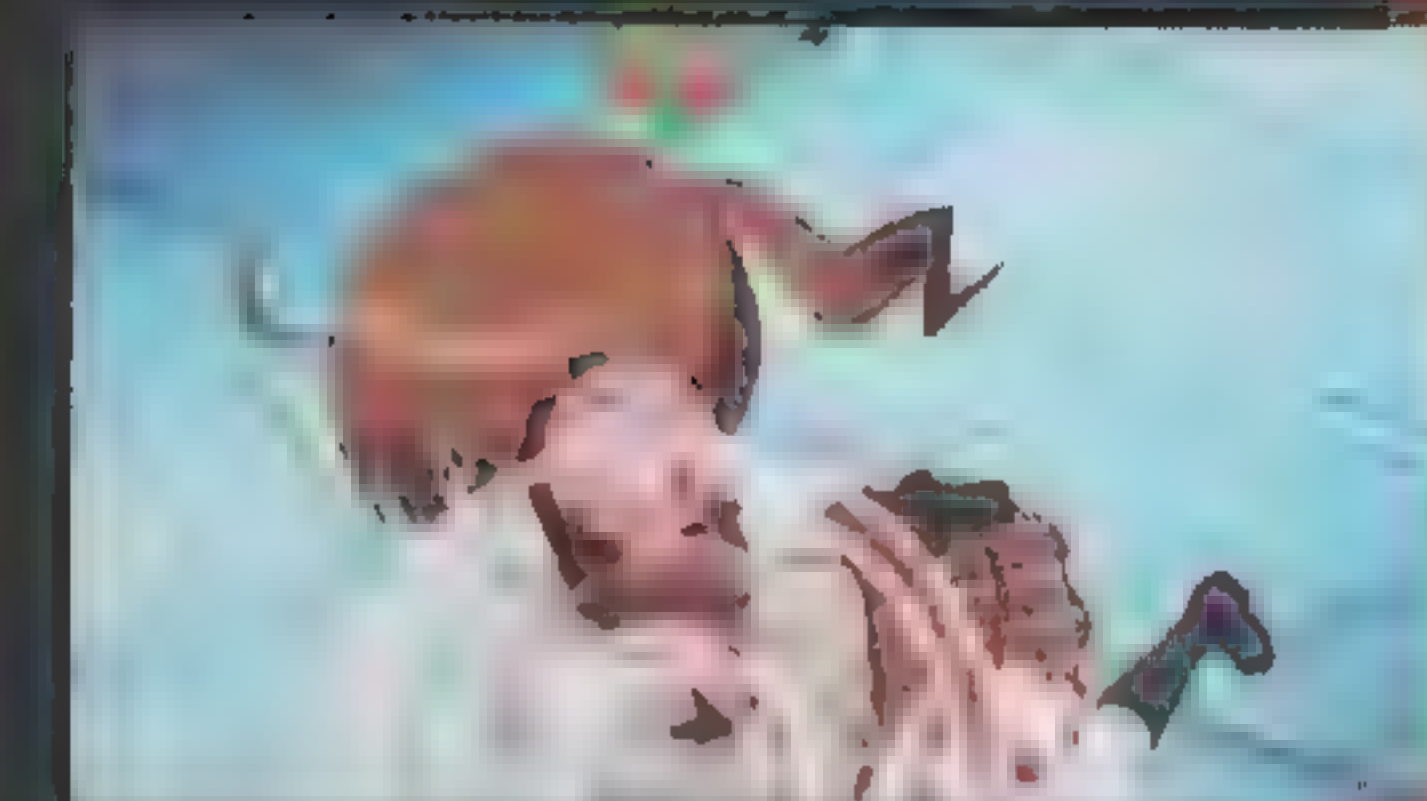
Rare people are those who are simple-minded and who genuinely wishes for world peace, yet ironically also the ones who usually encounter trouble the most.

Things aren't different for Nene Nanakorobi, a cyborg girl who is on her way to Cenacle island to live with her aunt. On the way though, she meets the inventor Uzal Delilah together with her cyborg pet Clarion, and starting with that encounter, her life will slowly change. She became easily attached to Clarion as she is a cyborg just like her, and a cute one moreover, and just like that she becomes deeply involved with the two. When Cenacle island abruptly came into chaos, Uzal installed Pandora Device (a fighting software originally in Clarion's system) into her body and together with Clarion they fight the terrorists to achieve world peace.

Pandora in the Crimson Shell: Ghost Urn (Koukaku no Pandora) is set in a period when technology is way advanced all over the world that cyborgs and autonomous robots are commonplace. Target audience are mostly boys, as it is an action, sci-fi series that is also of ecchi theme. It was based on a concept by Masamune Shirow, and is written by Koushi Rikudou since October 2012 for Kadokawa Shouten's Newtype Ace magazine. An anime adaptation of this Japanese manga was initially as a film produced by Studion Gokumi and released last December 2015. Not too long after, a television series began airing in January 2016 on Tokyo MX and is licensed in North America by Funimation.

Although its genre makes it look like an anime for all types of spectators, it is actually something more recommended for those who enjoy fanservice by girls. There are a lot of cute girl moments which a woman might not totally enjoy. On the other hand, action scenes and loli girls are most likely a perfect combo for men, and can be a good addition for your lists of anime you would watch in one go.

See how Nene gradually adapt the Pandora Device into her system and utilize it in order to attain the peace she is wishing for!



灰と幻想の グリムガル

Grimgar, le Monde des cendres et de fantasia



Hai to Gensou no Grimgar

Lost into the Unknown

article by: Kahlua

Gamers got to admit: at least once they have thought of wanting to be inside their favorite online game for real, experiencing firsthand how it feels like to be the hero they are controlling, fighting and doing spells as they wish in a world that never exists but we are familiar with.

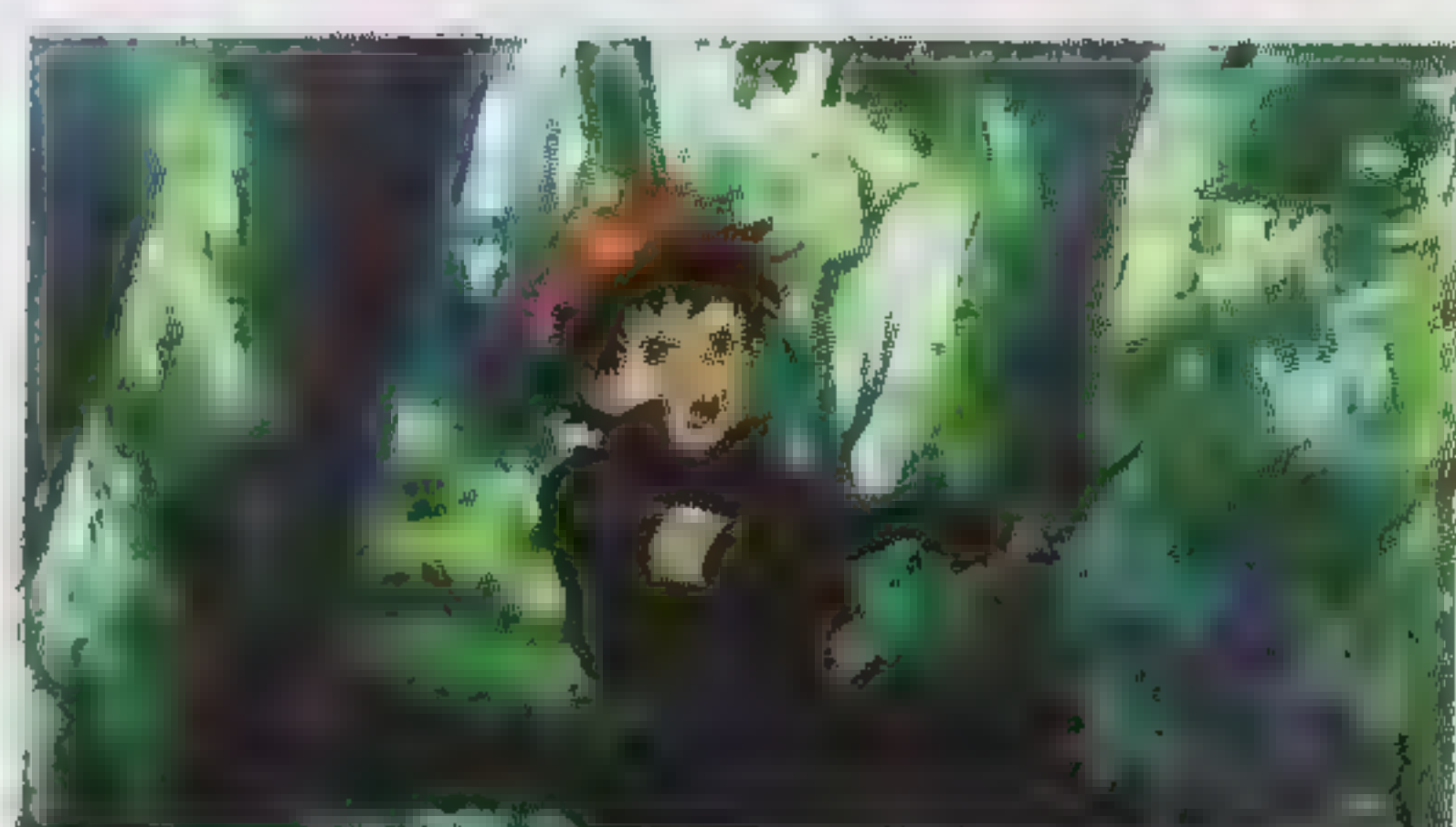
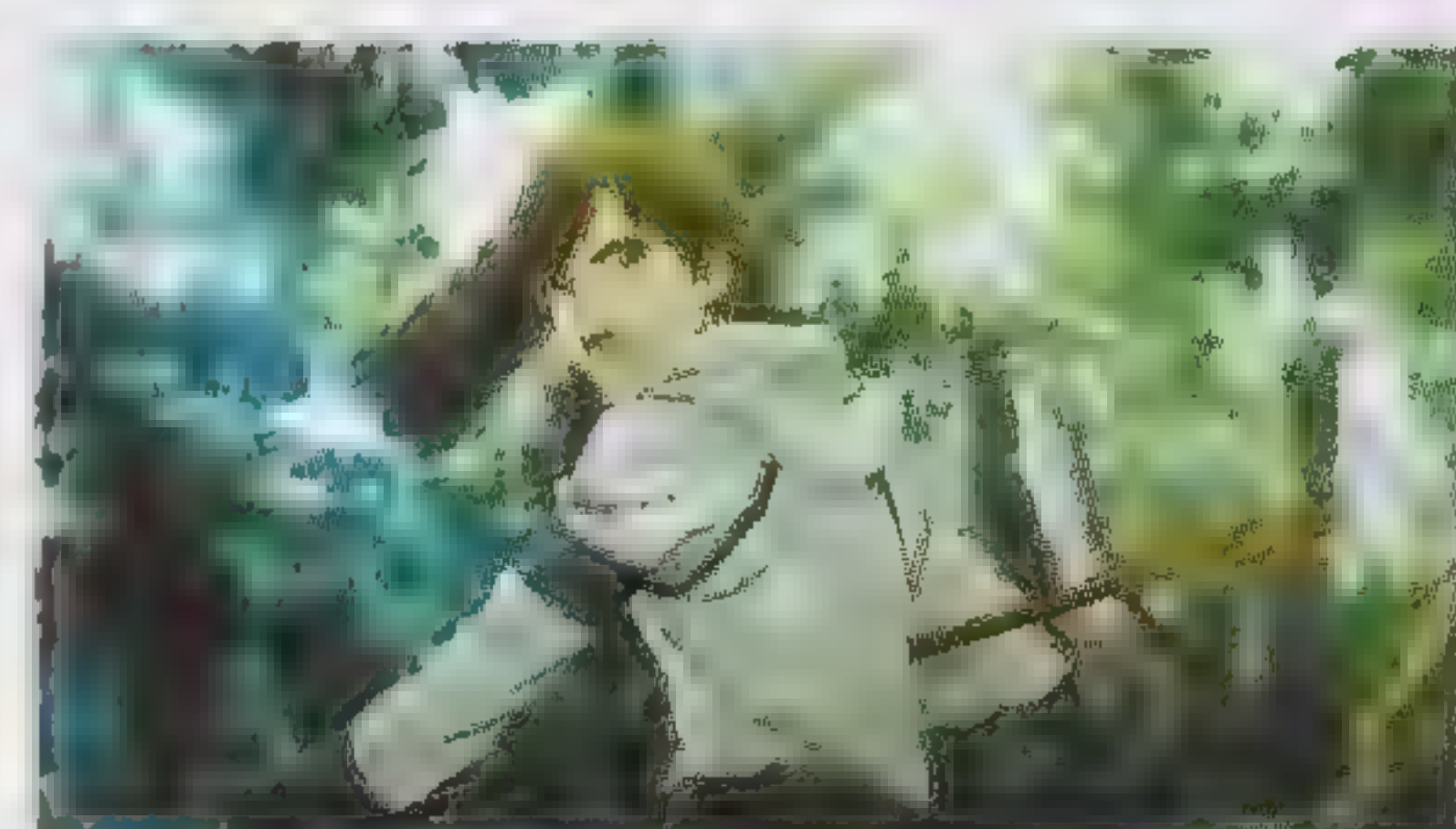
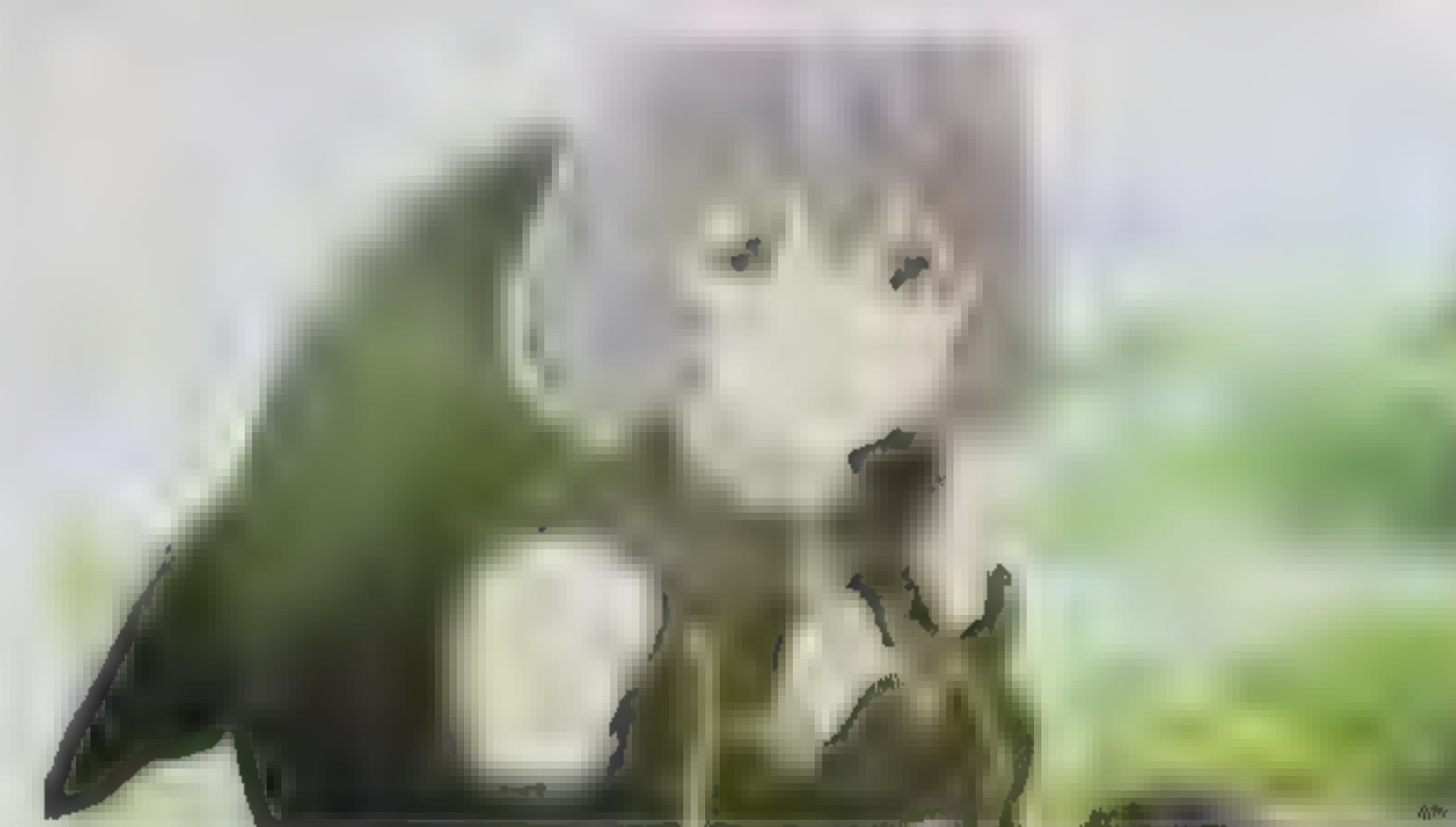
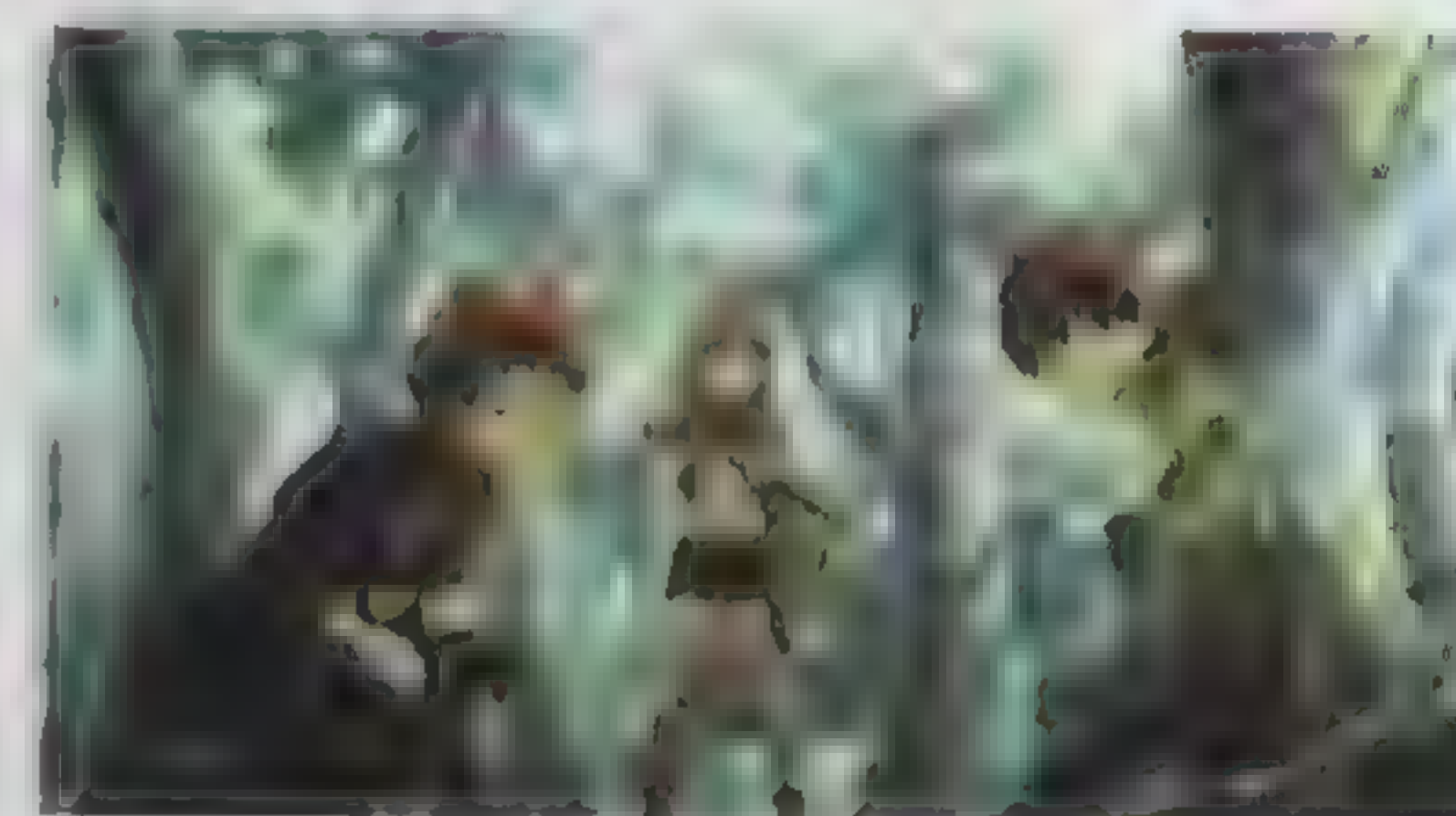
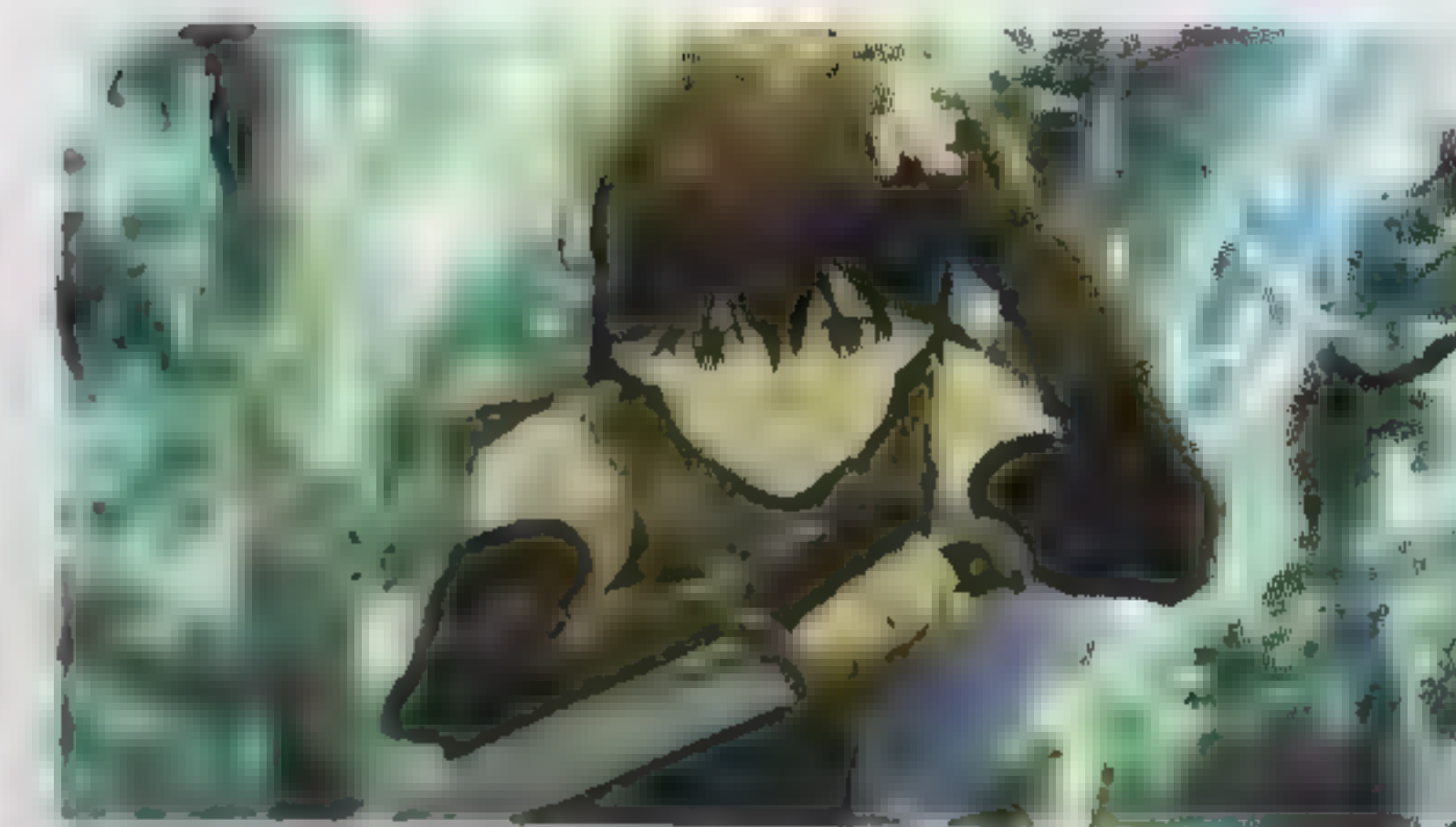
Sword Art Online once made a great breakthrough of widely promoting this type of storyline, wide enough for almost everyone to have at least an idea about it. But viewers should be aware how there are a lot of other good series that are also about being trapped inside a game. Among them is the series Hai to Gensou no Grimgar.

A group of youth were brought together, all who remember nothing from their past life except for their names. It's just them one day waking up and knowing that they have to survive in a place called Grimgar. What made it harder for them is that sometimes, they strangely use words they do not know yet feels familiar to them. Haruhiko, Yume, Shihoru, Ranta, Manato and Moguzo struggles to defend themselves while they are too weak to defeat even the weakest goblins in that world, but still they work together in order to earn a living; they have to do it for the sake of their own lives.

Originally a light novel series written by Ao Jijunji, Hai to Gensou no Grimgar (Grimgar of Fantasy and Ash) is a manga adaptation by Mutsumi Okubashi serialized at Square Enix's Gangan Joker since April 2015, and is now also serialized as an anime written and directed by Ryosuke Nakamura. It started airing on January 2016 with a total of 12 episodes.

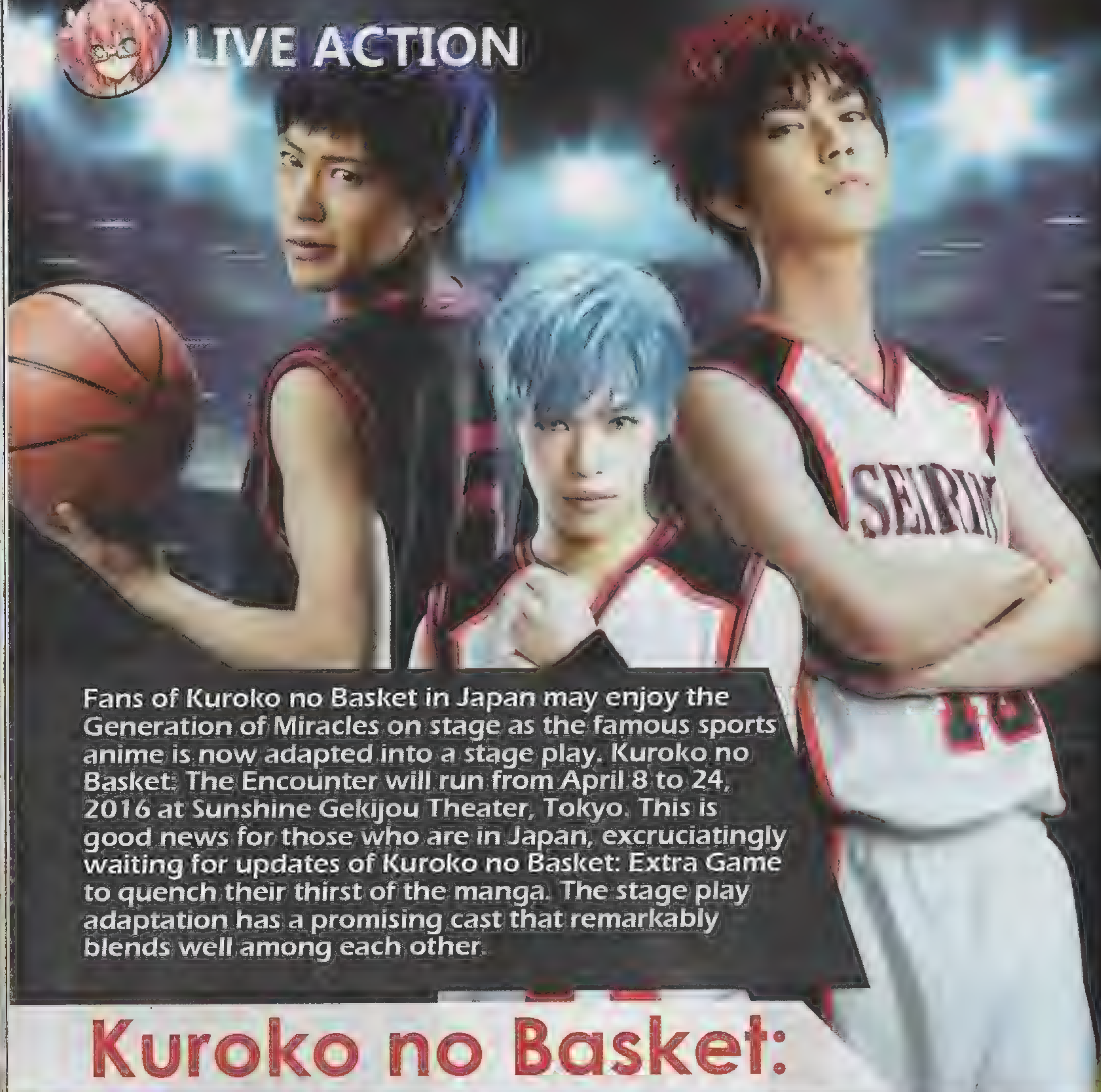
This anime has a slow start, so it is better not to expect a lot for the first few episodes. Some might get bored just by watching the pilot episode, but it would be better if you give it a chance and stay with it until the end. The story is simple and only has a few twists in it, but the character development is rich and by changing your angle of perception you might be able to relate somehow to each of the characters. It's not as flashy as SAO where the main characters are powerful; in fact, the characters are quite weak at first and still developing, but don't you think it's a bit more realistic? Moreover, the art is cool and pleasing and a real plus factor for watching it.

Will they be able to recover their memories and discover the secrets of Grimgar?





LIVE ACTION



Fans of Kuroko no Basket in Japan may enjoy the Generation of Miracles on stage as the famous sports anime is now adapted into a stage play. Kuroko no Basket: The Encounter will run from April 8 to 24, 2016 at Sunshine Gekijou Theater, Tokyo. This is good news for those who are in Japan, excruciatingly waiting for updates of Kuroko no Basket: Extra Game to quench their thirst of the manga. The stage play adaptation has a promising cast that remarkably blends well among each other.

Kuroko no Basket: The Encounter

by lizac 3.0

Other actors have been cast for the whole Seirin Team - Hyuuga Junpei, Riko Aida, Izuki Shun, Shinji Koganei, Mitobe Rinnosuke, and Tsuchida Satoshi. The captains of each team and other notable characters have also been included in the stage play. Fans are only expecting to see some season one references, what with the lack of casting for Murasakibara and Yosen team, and Akashi and Rakuzan team who only appeared in seasons two and three in the anime. Even so, it will still be an exciting stage play version for this legendary sports anime.

Cast:

Ono Kensho as Kuroko Tetsuya



Ono Kensho is the voice actor of Kuroko Tetsuya, the protagonist of Kuroko no Basket, and is now portraying the same character in its stage play adaptation. Ono or OnoKen, as his fans call him, is most notable for his role as Kuroko Tetsuya and Ren Hakuryuu from Magi. His soft voice bringing Kuroko to life and his overall perfect portrayal of the deadpanning genius make the fans excited to see what he has to offer. OnoKen is in fact, not new to the world of stage play. He once played a minor character in the Prince of Tennis Musicals as Touji Muromachi.

Asato Yuya as Kagami Taiga



The actor that created the buzz on social media for pulling off Kagami Taiga's trademark eyebrows, Asato Yuya is actually best known for his role as Sakamai Shuu in Diabolik Lovers stage play. This is a complete turnaround of character because of the huge personality differences, and the fact that Yuya is also not a regular stage actor. But his stern look on the promotional poster proves that he is more than ready to take on the role of the Light of Seirin.

Onuma Shota as Aomine Daiki



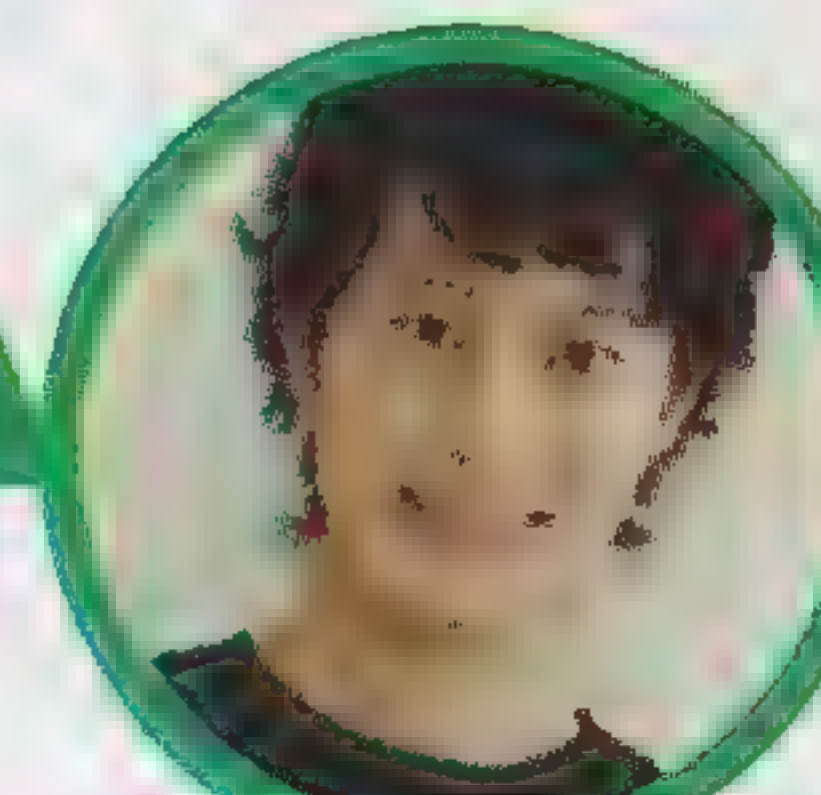
Perhaps the only one who could perfectly depict the lazy but amazing ace of Touou Basketball Team is Onuma Shota. The twenty-six year old stage actor is also a model for many local brands in Japan. Aomine Daiki has the same outlandish look that only Onuma Shota could handle. He is accustomed to such roles, having been cast as Atohe Keigo in the Prince of Tennis musicals in 2014. With Shota's boyish charm and lopsided smirks, Aomine Daiki will definitely be brought to life on stage.

Kuroba Mario as Kise Ryouta



- Kaijou's star player and the center of many girls' attention, Kise is portrayed by none other than Kuroba Mario, who is also the pretty boy in this actor list. He acted as Mikazuki Munechika in the Touken Ranbu stage play adaptation. This proves that Mario as a cheerful and funny actor could switch from charming to coldhearted in seconds, which is important to depict Kise. Despite Kise being a nice teammate, it is his two-faced tendencies that give depth to his overall character.

Hatakeyama Ryo as Midorima Shintarou



Hatakeyama Ryo is portraying Midorima Shintarou, the miracle shooter of Shutoku. Ryo is known for his role as Matsukawa Issei in the recently concluded Haikyuu!! stage play. It is his first stage acting role of minor importance, thus being cast as Midorima is his biggest break so far. He looks promising as Midorima with his signature megane antic.

Sugi Arisa as Momoi Satsuki



Like Ryo, this is Arisa's first big role in a stage play. She was once cast in a movie in 2010, but stage plays are a rarity in her career. It will be exciting to see how she depicts the genius analyst Momoi and her great attachment to Kuroko.



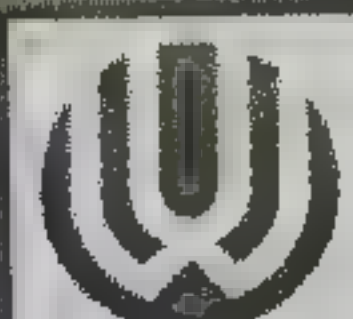
REQUESTS

by Ann

Requested by:
Enma Borja



One of the ingredients of a wonderful anime series is its music, so names of Japanese artists also tie their fates with these series. Thus, it is with no doubt that series such as Bleach, Blood+, and Death Note drew UVERworld along with their flight to success.



UVERworld

Invading the Globe

UVERworld is a J-rock six-man band that entered the music scene back in 2003. They were formerly called **Sound Goku Road (Sangoku Road)** and had seven members, but after **Seika** (saxophone and manipulation) and **Ryohei** (vocals) left, UVERworld became their new name. Its name refers to "crossing above the world" which becomes true as they continue expanding their musical influences under the label **gr8! Records** of **Sony Music**. Luckily, Seika made his return in 2014. The rest of the band includes **Takuya** (vocals, rapping, and composition), **Katsuya** (rhythm guitar and band leader), **Akira** (lead guitar and programming), **Nobuto** (bass guitar), and **Shintaro**, (drums and percussion).

UVERworld's debut single is "**D-tecnolife**," which was used as the second opening theme for **Bleach** and earned the fourth place in the Oricon charts, remaining in the Top 30 weekly singles ranking for five weeks. "**Chance!**" then becomes used for the second PSP game of **Bleach: Heat the Soul**, which also reached the Oricon charts for three weeks. Their single "**Colors of the Heart**"

was used for **Blood+** which reached third rank while "**Nagare.Kuukyo.This Word**" for **Death Note**. In 2008, they released "**Gekidō**" was used for **D.Gray-man** as well as "**Hakanaku mo Towa no Kanashi**" for **Mobile Suit Gundam 00**, which hit number-one on Oricon.

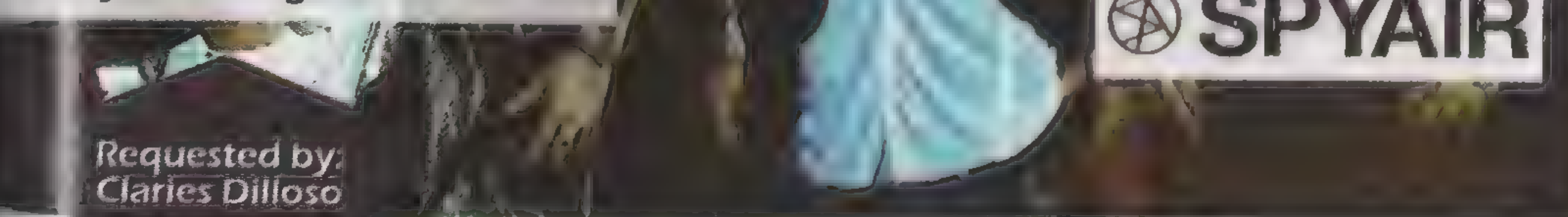
More of their singles are used for anime but aside from the anime series, they have singles used for various purposes such as "**Shamrock**" for the drama **Dance Drill**, "**Kimi no Suki na Uta**" for TV show **Koi Suru Hanikami!**, "**I LOVE THE WORLD**" for **Dragon Nest R Game**, and "**Just Break the Limit!**" for **Pocari Sweat**.

The **Japan Gold Disc Awards** named the band as the **New Artist of the Year** in 2005. They are also a trailblazer when it came to the fact that their music video for "**Gold**" is Japan's first 3-D music video. By 2014, they have eight studio albums and over 28 singles under their belt.

There's more to watch out for this breakthrough band and we'll be hearing more of them in our favorite anime and various TV shows.

Starting from self-producing music, **SPYAIR** continues to fill fans with awe as they release music to jam with like of **Gin Tama's "Samurai Heart (Some Like it Hot)"** **Haikyuu's "Imagination."**

Requested by:
Claries Dilloso



Rocking out with

SPYAIR

The band is formed back in 2005 and is composed of members: **Ike** for the vocals, **Uz** for the guitar or programming, **Momiken** for the bass and **Kenta** for the drums with **DJ Enzel** as their former member. They self-produced numerous music until 2009 when they signed for the indie label **U-Project** where they released "**Japanication**" and "**Kanjou Discord**."

Back in 2010, they signed a major deal with **Sony Music** with their major debut single "**Liar**" that was released on August of that year and is used as the theme song for the television drama called **Hammer session!**. This release was followed by the song "**Last Moment**" that was used as **Bleach's** 25th ending theme song. In 2011, they released their fourth single "**Samurai Heart (Some Like it Hot)**" to be used as **Gin Tama's** 17th ending theme song. In 2012, their song "**My World**" was used as the second ending to the series **Mobile Suit Gundam AGE**. Their popularity made it in Hollywood as their song "**O Game (Love Game)**" was used as the official soundtrack to film, **The Amazing Spider-Man**.

Back in 2012, they released their single "**Naked**" along with the announcement of their second album "**Just Do It.**" In the same year, they released a single "**Wendy: It's You**" that was used as the theme song of the drama series **Koi Suru Hae Onna**. After the release of this single, **DJ Enzel** announced that he would be leaving the group after the band's **Nippon Budokan** concert where they performed a total of 21 songs.

In 2013, they released their single "**Sakura Mitsutsuki**" that was used as **Gin Tama's** opening theme song. In September of the same year, the band released their third studio album "**Million**" in UK, Europe and Russia by **JPU Records**. A month after this release, their single "**Just One Life**" was used as the first opening theme song of the anime series **Samurai Flamenco**. Back in 2014, their newest single "**Imagination**" is used as the first opening theme of the **Haikyuu** anime series with "**I'm a believer**" is used as the first opening theme song as well in **Haikyuu's** second season.

With their continuous growth of their popularity, be sure to check out and listen to **SPYAIR's** music!



BITZ

So I watched Deadpool

by kaddy

Valentines day this year was a whole lot of special for Marvel fans. Thanks to the screenplay by Rhett Reese, Paul Wernick, director Tim Miller with producer and star Ryan Reynolds for getting the movie finally out.

Based on Marvel Comics' anti-hero, Deadpool tells the origin story of a former Special Forces operative turned mercenary Wade Wilson, who after being diagnosed with cancer was offered to be part of an experiment. They accelerated his healing powers but rendered him ugly. He adopts the alter ego Captain Deadpool... Deadpool. Armed with his humor and the ability to break the fourthwall, Deadpool hunts down the man who destroyed his life.

Despite not being a hardcore Deadpool fan, I do know the basics of the character: He's a badmouth and definitely not a hero.

February 14, 30% of the mall guests were all about being in love and being together. 70% talked about Deadpool. And who wouldn't? Their marketing through the previous months were talk-worthy and irresistible. The Wikipedia search for "Deadpool" was high.

Even though by the time you're reading this, the 'spoiler' rule should have been lifted, I'm not going to spoil anything just in case you haven't seen it. His girlfriend is a mutant and they could have Keira Knightley as Cable in the next movie.



Not sorry. But go watch the movie. We congratulate Fox for making the decision to greenlight the movie Tim Miller and team made. It couldn't possibly get better. It was also very well written and follows what we call the "interest curve" where constantly building up tension is dull while constantly high tension is exhausting so instead they follow a series of ups and downs.

There's an early buildup when Deadpool starts attacking this van of men (as shown in the leaked video two years ago). Followed by a dip when we go back in time for Deadpool to show us where it all started. Then we go back to the action once again for him to catch "Francis" only to be interrupted by a heavy-set friend, yeah it's Colossus. This back and forth to present time and flashback goes on until we get "all caught up" right when Francis kidnaps Vanessa. That my friends is a good use of an interest curve.

From there we could expect that Deadpool saves her, kills Francis and lives happily ever after.

The last Marvel movie (who cares about Fantastic 4) was Ant Man which had the typical problems: learning martial arts in under a year, defying the laws of physics (have you forgotten density?) and more. As of now, I have only two problems with Deadpool: Negasonic Teenage War-ugh, just NTW was potentially useful in any fight scenes but her powers were muted down to just being able to explode stuff around.

Then Ajax's henchmen. They produce man-made mutants and so why employ these lowly humans to try and stop someone who Ajax knows is better than him? They could have at least some enhancements or deformities.



Looking past those two problems, the movie was good. Yes it was delicious. It was the director's first feature film but since we have the writers of *Zombieland* and Ryan Reynolds, the movie is saved.

Even though the movie became more or less too well-marketed to the masses (and now everyone is a Deadpool know-it-all), we still love it. Since they announced a sequel, we will be looking forward to it with high hopes (which is rare for Fox. I mean, did you hear, they are making a *Fantastic Four* ????)
THE

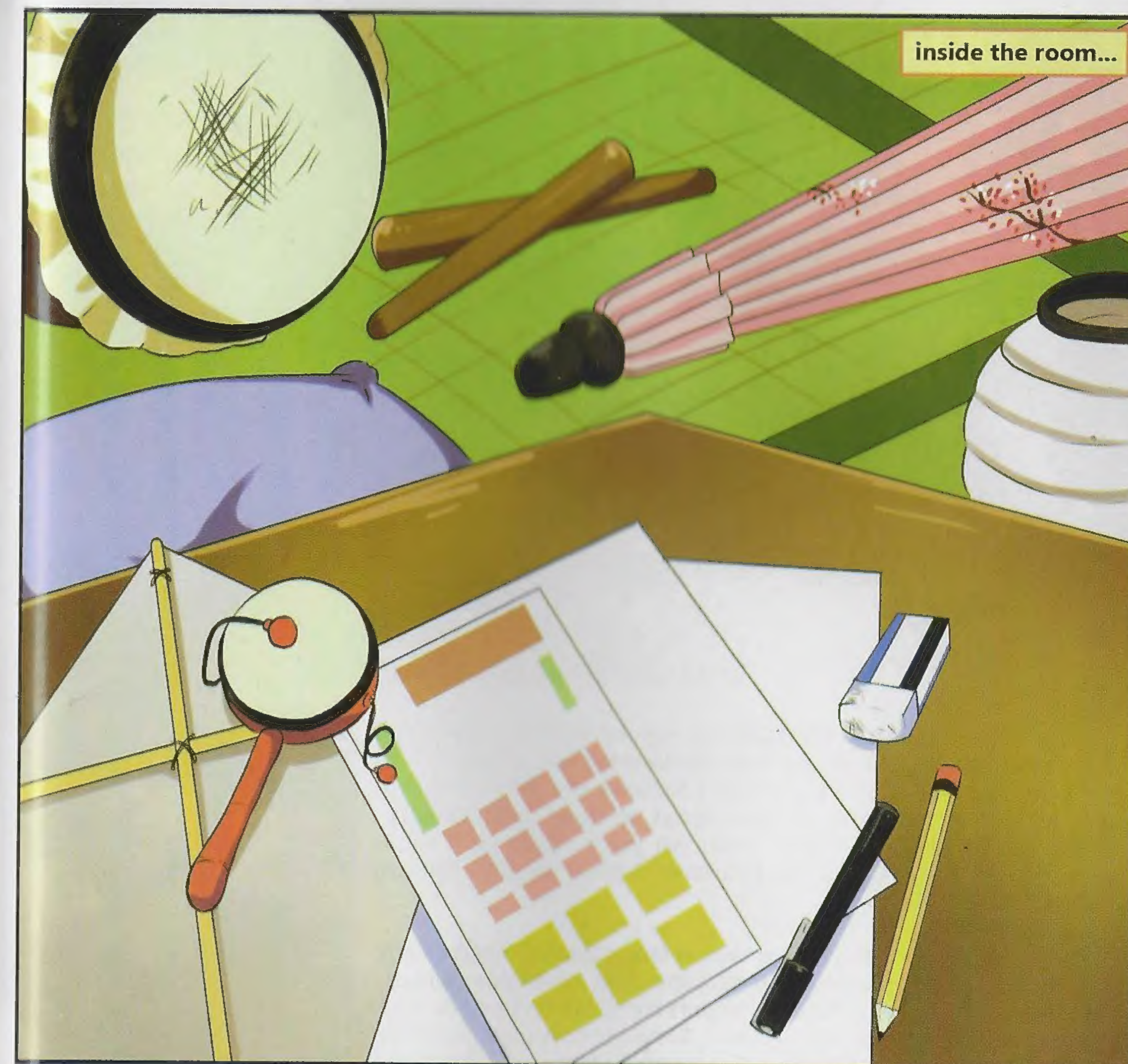
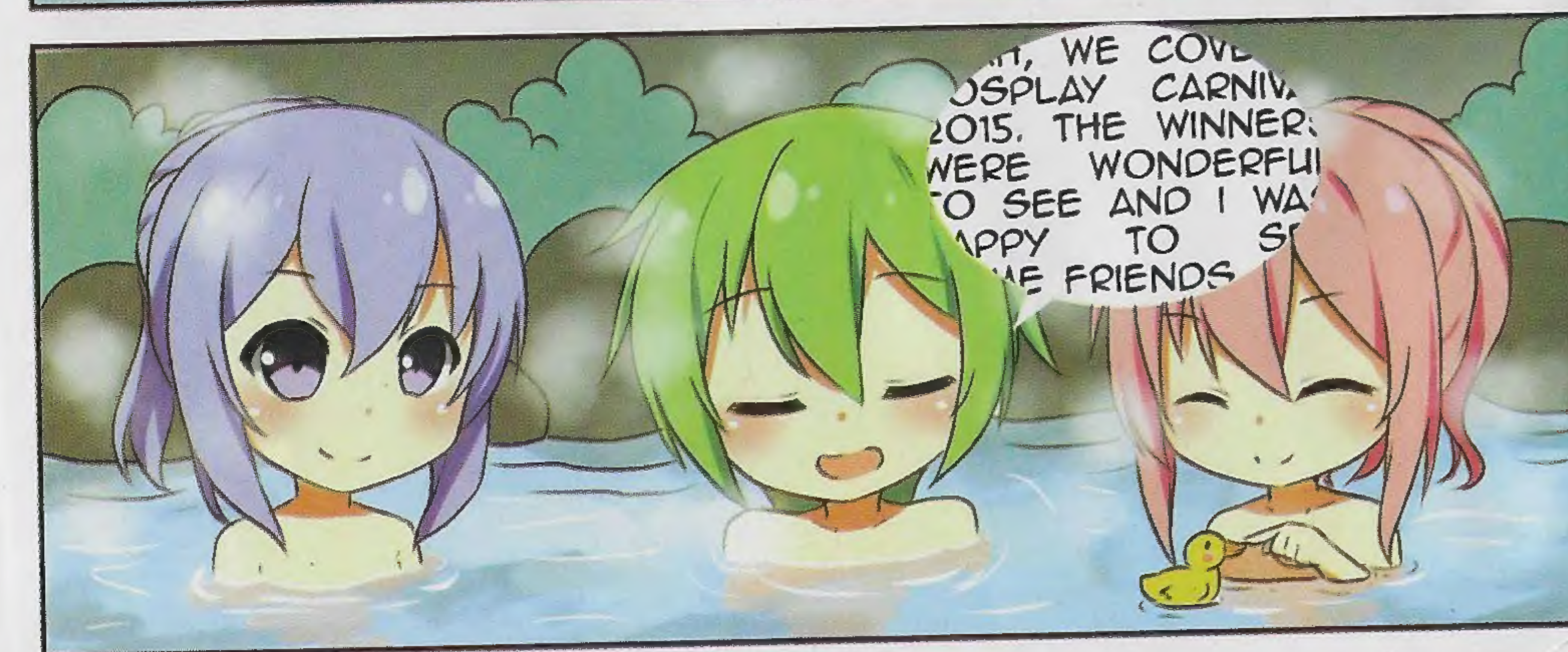


FRICK



O-KUN TALES

*read right to left~



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#THROWBACK

A Timeless Tale Between Two Worlds

By Reikisha



The 90's truly was the golden age of almost anything. For those Otafans reading right now who are at the 19-25 year old bracket, you might start feeling old after reading this article about one of the most memorable RPGs in video game history. Better lean on your chair and wear that dusty nostalgia cap because today we're talking about **Chrono Cross**.

Once upon a time, there was a boy named **Serge** who lives in a fishing village of **Arni**. One day, he unknowingly slips into a parallel world in which he died ten years ago. After learning about his "death", Serge resolved himself to embark on a journey to find the truth behind the incident. He meets a feisty thief named **Kid** who is also on a journey of her own after an encounter with **Karsh** and his men. From that moment onward, Serge, Kid, and their growing cast of companions traveled all over **El Nido** searching for the mythical **Frozen Flame**. During their journey, the party encounters **Lynx**, a sadistic and cruel demi-human who, for some reason, is bent on finding Serge.

Chrono Cross was considered to be a masterpiece due to its complex plot, innovative battle system, large cast of characters, fascinating BGMs and vibrant graphics during the 90's. As a child, the idea of a parallel world existing at the same time as our original world was foreign to us. All we know back then was that Serge can travel back and forth between two worlds and the choices we make in one world changes the other. Quantum physics is certainly a difficult concept for a child to understand, but that didn't stop us from admiring the beauty of **Chrono Cross** compared to other games we've played on the PlayStation 1 back in the day.



FUN FACT:

- **Chrono Cross** was one of the games produced by Squaresoft before they became the game company we know today as Square Enix.

- Despite not being a direct sequel to **Chrono Trigger**, the game's story somehow connects with its predecessor.

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